



# Debates

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Legislative Assembly for the ACT

**EIGHTH ASSEMBLY**

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## **Thursday, 7 August 2014**

**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.

## **Crimes Amendment Bill 2014**

**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 the Environment and Minister for Capital Metro) (10.01): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

The Crimes Amendment Bill 2014 concerns the process by which the Supreme Court considers a report of an inquiry into a conviction. In the course of considering the report on the conviction of David Eastman, the Supreme Court recently heard arguments about the nature of its proceedings in dealing with an inquiry.

The amendments I am introducing today support the court review process by clarifying that the Supreme Court can receive submissions in considering an inquiry report and that its proceedings are judicial in nature. The bill achieves this by repealing section 431 of the Crimes Act.

Section 431 contains two main points: that a proceeding to which that section applies is not a judicial proceeding and that the court must not hear submissions in certain circumstances. During its consideration of the Eastman inquiry report, the Supreme Court found that these points apply only to the question of whether a report should be published. They do not apply to any other Supreme Court function in relation to an inquiry. In particular, they do not apply to the Supreme Court's function of deciding whether to quash a conviction.

This bill will therefore confirm the Supreme Court's decision that it could hear submissions about the Eastman inquiry report and that its proceedings were judicial in nature. The bill, if enacted by the Assembly, is proposed to operate from this day. This is to ensure that there is no further doubt about what impact section 431 has on the Supreme Court's consideration of the Eastman inquiry report.

In introducing these amendments, I will first give a brief summary of the inquiry process, including the roles of the government, the inquiry board and the Supreme Court. Once the background to the inquiry process is clear, I will explain how these amendments support the independence of the process. Nothing in this bill detracts from the Supreme Court's ability to act on an inquiry report, including the Eastman

inquiry report. Nothing in this bill will affect the Supreme Court's independence or ability to consider and act on an inquiry report. These amendments are solely intended to resolve a specific, technical question about the Supreme Court's process in considering an inquiry report.

Part 20 of the Crimes Act provides an avenue for examining a conviction when all of the usual review processes have been exhausted. It is meant to provide for the most exceptional circumstances, and the drafting of the provision reflects that. An inquiry is not simply another criminal trial that establishes guilt or innocence or operates like an appeal. An inquiry examines matters where there is some reason to expect that the justice system might have erred, and erred in a way that was not corrected through the normal avenues of review. The broad powers of an inquiry board to look into anything related to its terms of reference reflect this unique role.

The ACT's system allows an inquiry to be ordered by a Supreme Court judge. This provides an avenue for independent consideration of a request to begin an inquiry. At the same time, the Supreme Court sets terms of reference for the inquiry. Once an inquiry is ordered, a board is appointed to report against the terms of reference. An inquiry board appointed under the Crimes Act operates much like an inquiry under other legislation in the territory. A key difference is that in the Crimes Act process, the report of an inquiry goes directly to the Supreme Court for action.

The role of the executive government under part 20 of the Crimes Act is a supporting role. The government appoints a judicial officer to head a board of inquiry. Government funding and support are provided for the operation of the inquiry. All decisions about how, when and what to hear are in the hands of the inquiry board. The government has no decision-making or directing role in the inquiry process.

An inquiry that has been ordered by the Supreme Court ends in a report. The Supreme Court's role is then to consider the report and make a decision about its findings. The decision can include confirming a conviction, quashing a conviction and quashing a conviction and ordering a retrial. The court also has the option of recommending to the executive that it considers remitting a penalty or granting a pardon to the convicted person. These options provide an avenue for the court to consider and decide whether the findings of an inquiry warrant a new decision about a conviction.

The Supreme Court's power operates independently of both the government and the inquiry board. The court is not obliged to follow what an inquiry board has recommended or suggested in a report. The court is completely independent in deciding what to do with a conviction following an inquiry. It is at this stage that a question about section 431 of the Crimes Act has been raised in the current proceedings before the court.

The report of Acting Justice Martin's inquiry is the first report delivered for consideration under part 20 of the Crimes Act. This bill is in response to issues that the Supreme Court considered in the process. During proceedings on the Eastman inquiry report, the court considered the effect of section 431, whether it applied to some provisions of the Crimes Act and not others, and questions of procedural fairness. The court considered that despite the wording of section 431, the court could

receive submissions in considering its decision in response to the inquiry report. It also concluded that its proceedings were judicial in character. The proposed amendments are therefore consistent with the findings of the court.

Ultimately, section 431 is not necessary to the inquiry process. While the provision was drafted in the spirit of limiting the possibilities for endless litigation, the Supreme Court's recent decision in the Eastman inquiry means that it is of limited effect. This amendment will therefore resolve any confusion and prevent arguments about the statute frustrating the court's independent consideration of the report and of any future reports.

It is important to emphasise that this amendment is about avoiding procedural or technical issues with the inquiry process. This amendment will not change or affect the outcome of the present inquiry or any future inquiry. It will not require the Supreme Court to do anything other than what it is now doing. The possible outcomes of the Supreme Court's consideration will not be changed.

These are minimal, straightforward changes that demonstrate the government's commitment to respecting the court's proceedings. They are consistent with the existing process and will support an independent decision by the court about inquiries into convictions.

I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

## **Public Accounts—Standing Committee**

### **Statement by chair**

**MR SMYTH** (Brindabella): Pursuant to standing order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts relating to the committee's recent participation in the Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees mid-term meeting. The 2014 ACPAC mid-term meeting was hosted by the Victorian Public Accounts and Estimates Committee and the Victorian parliament in Melbourne on 20 June 2014. Thirty-six ACPAC delegates attended the meeting, including chairpersons, members and staff of Australasian public accounts committees, including the national parliament of Papua New Guinea's Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts.

Dr Chris Bourke MLA and Ms Nicole Lawder MLA, together with the committee's secretary, represented the PAC of the ACT at the meeting. As the meeting coincided with hearings of the Legislative Assembly's Select Committee on Estimates 2014-15, I, along with the committee's deputy chair, Ms Porter MLA, were unable to attend.

ACPAC, formed in 1989, facilitates the exchange of information and opinions relating to public accounts committees and discusses matters of mutual concern. ACPAC meets every two years in conference with a mid-term meeting to discuss and agree on an agenda for the forthcoming conference and to discuss issues specifically pertaining to Australasian committees.

A key focus of the meeting was the increasing international focus of ACPAC and discussions regarding formalising the council's role in strengthening the accountability in international parliaments, in particular building capacity for the potential role that can be played by the long-established public accounts committees in Australia and New Zealand. This included ratifications of the council's international engagement strategy.

A range of other issues pertaining to Australasian public accounts committees was also discussed, including proposed options for a commonwealth association of public accounts committees, ACPAC's representation on the Australian Accounting Standards Board, recent initiatives undertaken by the New Zealand parliament on cyber bullying, including the New Zealand justice and electoral committee's report on the Harmful Digital Communications Bill, jurisdictional approaches to following up on the implementation of auditor-general recommendations by government agencies and amendments to the ACPAC constitution, in particular amendments to provide explicit formalisation of ACPAC's role to implement engagement with the international parliamentary community.

The committee sincerely thanks the Victorian public accounts and estimates committee, its secretariat and the Victorian parliament for its warm welcome and hospitality in hosting the 2014 ACPAC mid-term conference. The committee also acknowledges and appreciates the hardworking secretariat of the Victorian Public Accounts and Estimates Committee.

## **Executive members' business—precedence**

*Ordered that executive members' business be called on.*

### **Drugs of Dependence (Cannabis Use for Medical Purposes) Amendment Bill 2014 Exposure draft**

**Mr Rattenbury**, by leave, presented the following papers:

Drugs of Dependence (Cannabis Use for Medical Purposes) Amendment Bill  
2014—Exposure draft.

Medicinal Cannabis—Discussion paper, dated July 2014, prepared by the ACT  
Greens.

**MR RATTENBURY** (Molonglo): I seek leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

**MR RATTENBURY**: For the information of members, I present an exposure draft of the Drugs of Dependence (Cannabis use for Medical Purposes) Amendment Bill 2014 and a related discussion paper.

Members, today I am tabling an exposure draft of legislation that would allow, for the first time, sick and dying people in the ACT to legally access medicinal cannabis as a treatment for their illness. I am also tabling an accompanying discussion paper which seeks feedback on the draft legislation from the community, from experts and from other stakeholders.

The key motivation for taking up this issue on behalf of the ACT Greens is one of compassion. People who are ill and dying, or enduring chronic pain or debilitating symptoms, should be able to access appropriate treatments to help alleviate their symptoms. Cannabis can be one of those appropriate treatments. Its use as a medical treatment is supported by strong medical evidence. This is backed up, as we have no doubt all seen, by strong anecdotal evidence. Regulation of medicinal cannabis is workable, and we already have numerous other jurisdictions around the world we can look to for guidance. The model I have proposed in this exposure draft is based on a model used in Canada for many years, but it is flexible and open to change, either now or after an initial period of operation.

Since I released this legislation, I have already received many submissions and feedback from members of the public who are urging a change to the law. Some are from out of state, but many are local. Invariably these are everyday people who are suffering from one of the illnesses for which cannabis can help relieve symptoms or who have a loved one who is suffering such an illness. The people suffering from these illnesses cover the age spectrum, from babies and children with illnesses such as rare and severe epilepsy to the elderly with illnesses such as terminal cancer.

Some of the submissions talk about the struggle and stigma they have to suffer in order to obtain cannabis outside the law. Some of the submissions talk about the fact that the person does not use cannabis because it is illegal, but desperately wishes that they could, and they suffer daily because they cannot. These fears of prosecution or persecution help to keep most of these stories hidden, but I am sure we have all seen some of the few stories that have become public in recent months. There is story of Tamworth mother Lucy Haslam and her son Dan, for example. Let me quote some of Lucy's story in her own words. She says:

I'm watching my brave 24-year-old son Dan die from terminal cancer that's putting him and his young wife through hell. All I want to do is stop the pain he's feeling—what any parent would fight to do ...

We manage my son's health with medicinal cannabis, and I'm terrified I'm going to end up in prison.

Like many others with terminal illness, the drug is helping manage my son's nausea, his vomiting, and the cruel tricks that cancer plays on his appetite.

It's vastly different to recreational drug use. Dan doesn't want to do it, he has to; it's giving him an ability to maintain quality of life with the time that he has left.

It shouldn't be like this. He's just celebrated his first wedding anniversary with his darling wife, and he's desperate to enjoy as many more as he possibly can. I want that for him too.



We told our kids to stay away from drugs; and we meant it. But when you're told your son is in the situation ours is, and nothing else works, you have no choice but to try everything ...

... the laws as they stand at the present time have turned my family into criminals as we try to manage debilitating cancer symptoms and to try and get rid of this hideous disease.

The facts are simple: He is dying. This helps him. And yet we're still criminalised.

These are the kinds of stories that make me think that not only is it compassionate to allow access to medicinal cannabis; it is, in fact, cruel to deny access to medicinal cannabis.

It is becoming more and more familiar that we see doctors supporting their patients in their use of cannabis as a medical treatment. The doctor of two-year-old Abbey, a little girl featured recently in the media who has a rare disease that causes constant uncontrollable seizures, was asked about Abbey's mother using a cannabis tincture to treat the symptoms. The doctor said he supports anything that works for her. It is brave that the doctor even spoke about the issue, and to supply the treatment or provide support for its use he could well be forced to engage in civil disobedience.

The problem is that these are questions about medical treatment, about the health of the sick or dying, but politicians or police are making the decisions instead of medical practitioners. It is time we allowed doctors to make these decisions with their patients.

Members may have seen similar stories of anguish in the media recently, about children suffering from uncontrollable seizures and the vast improvement they have received from treatment with cannabis oil. The families are left with no choice but to break the law in order to help their children. Several of them are organising to move to the US, where medical cannabis is already legal in more than 20 states. In fact, there are many countries across the world that allow access to medicinal cannabis; members will see I have listed a summary of some of these schemes in the discussion paper.

I believe there are several key reasons why the use of medicinal cannabis is not yet permitted in the ACT or in Australia, and I would like to briefly comment on a few of those discussion points.

The first is that the issue of medicinal cannabis is often conflated—sometimes deliberately by opponents—with the issue of recreational cannabis. But these are two separate issues. Recreational use of cannabis should not be compared to medicinal cannabis. Recreational cannabis is used without medical advice or supervision; it is not being used as a treatment; and it is often used over longer periods or by young people.

Medicinal cannabis has been the subject of major national reviews by experts in many countries, including the USA, the UK and Australia. They have determined cannabis

can have medical value treating various conditions. Potential side effects are seen much differently in this context, as they must be weighed against the debilitating effects of the symptoms that are being treated, just as is the case with other medicines that are accepted. The medical evidence shows that the risks of using medicinal cannabis are modest and that the benefits can be substantial.

As an example, a German medical study reviewed the variety of controlled trials that have involved medicinal cannabis and found a prevalence of favourable controlled trials for treatment of a range of conditions, including spasticity from multiple sclerosis; side effects from chemotherapy; symptoms of HIV/AIDS and cancer; chronic neuropathic pain; and other chronic pain, for example from cancer, rheumatism or fibromyalgia.

A second issue is an ideological distaste for offering any kind of support for using what is currently an illegal drug, particularly a drug that has a strong stigma attached to it. An associated reason is political concern about a voter backlash from people vocally opposed to any action which could be seen as supporting or endorsing the use of drugs. But this is not an appropriate way to make decisions about medicine, and about people's lives and health.

In any case, I believe this is a misguided view, as polling shows that medicinal cannabis has popular support in the Australian community. Approximately 70 per cent of Australians support the use of medicinal cannabis. There is majority support amongst voters of every persuasion: Liberal, Labor, Green, and even the Palmer United Party. For politicians interested in the wishes of their constituency, this is an issue for you. Your voters support allowing sick people access to medicinal cannabis as a treatment.

Some people are particularly fearful about "what ifs". What if allowing medicinal cannabis leads to an explosion in cannabis use more generally? What if it cannot be controlled and facilitates a criminal black market? Fortunately for us, we can look to the many years of evidence of regulated medicinal cannabis. These fears simply do not play out. They can certainly be controlled with well thought out and well managed regulation.

In any case, like other issues where a community need inevitably causes people to break the law in secret, it is beneficial to regulate. Under a regulated system, people who may currently use medicinal cannabis illegally would instead do so with the advice and support of a doctor, and the government will know who is growing cannabis for medicinal purposes and where they are doing it.

For members' interest I will outline some of the key features of the legislation I have proposed.

A person seeking to use medicinal cannabis would need a medical declaration from their doctor, including details about the condition, how the doctor has discussed the risks and benefits, how the applicant would administer the cannabis and manage its use, and certification that the patient has tried or considered conventional treatments.

The final grant of a permit will be determined by the ACT government's Chief Health Officer. A person would essentially possess a licence to use cannabis, which would last for a year at most before needing renewal.

The legislation establishes three tiers of applicant. Category 1 applicants are people with a terminal illness. Category 2 applications are for the mitigation of symptoms of serious diseases or conditions which are listed in the legislation. Category 3 applications are for the mitigation of other medical conditions, or their treatment. These may be any number of chronic and debilitating conditions.

The conditions of application are slightly less restrictive for category 1 patients and more restrictive for category 3 patients. Importantly, though, all include close involvement with the person's doctor or doctors, and applicants will need to have tried or considered other medical treatments first.

The legislation also allows an applicant, or a nominated carer, to grow cannabis for the person's medical use. There are also strict conditions on this process, including how much may be grown, which limit the opportunity for abuse.

The summary of the system presented in this bill is that it allows people with genuine medical conditions to use cannabis for treatment, or to grow cannabis for that purpose, without fear of legal repercussions. It also ensures that medical professionals and the government, via the Chief Health Officer, are involved in this process.

In this way, the proposed scheme is quite minimalist. It does not establish a more sophisticated regime of supply, for example. Some countries, such as the Netherlands, highly regulate the cultivation and supply of cannabis for medical use to ensure pharmaceutical quality and accessibility to the treatment. States in the USA provide access to medical cannabis through shopfront dispensaries which sell the product. These models have the advantage of allowing easier access to cannabis for those who need it and, in the Netherlands model, of guaranteeing a consistent product.

I am certainly open to the prospect of using this type of model here. If the Chief Minister and other members want to talk through how we could make that work, I am eager to do so. I agree it is beneficial to guarantee easy access to consistent product for people who need it.

Of course there are difficulties in establishing such a system, particularly with moving to such a model quickly. Other jurisdictions in Australia, including at the federal level, have not yet accepted the arguments for providing regulated access to medicinal cannabis. I would be concerned that it could take a long time to set up a working model of government-endorsed supply, particularly given the need for federal government cooperation, issues to sort through with therapeutic goods legislation and other potential barriers. It is not sufficient to wait for the federal government to move, or for other states to move, or to wait for some ideal alignment of the planets that never occurs. In the meantime, there are people who need access to this treatment right now.

The model I have presented allows people access to pain relief and treatment now and is a suitable model to start with while we determine how to move to a fully functioning model of government supply, if that is what is agreed upon. In this context, I note that my legislation contains a review clause to apply after three years and will establish a multi-stakeholder committee and require the tabling of a review in the Legislative Assembly. This is a built-in mechanism to encourage the Assembly to change or otherwise expand the scheme if it is required.

I want to thank my Assembly colleagues for the consideration they have given to this proposal so far. I have talked about it to both the Chief Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. While each of them has some doubts and concerns, which is understandable, they have also promised to consider the proposal with an open mind. And I reiterate my promise that I will work openly with them and I am willing to consider any amendments or suggestions they may have prior to tabling a final version of this bill.

I also extend a genuine offer to any other MLA who wants to discuss this issue further, even if they just wish me to put them in touch with medical experts or people in the community who can share their knowledge or experiences.

I believe on this issue it is possible for this Assembly to cooperate and endorse a scheme for the provision of medical cannabis to those who are sick or dying, with the supervision and support of medical practitioners. We can make life more bearable and more dignified for people who are dying from a terminal illness or suffering from chronic pain or intolerable symptoms. That would be an enduring legacy for the ACT and one that would make a very real contribution to many people's lives.

I commend the exposure draft and the discussion paper to the Assembly.

Motion (by **Dr Bourke**, by leave) proposed:

That the exposure draft of the Drugs of Dependence (Cannabis Use for Medical Purposes) Amendment Bill 2014 and the related discussion paper be referred to the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services for inquiry and report by the last sitting day in June 2015.

**MR RATTENBURY** (Molonglo) (10.28): I am happy to support this move by Dr Bourke. I think this is a useful initiative to take. It gives all members in this place, particularly the members of the committee, a good opportunity to examine the issue in more depth. I think that is very much the spirit in which I seek to bring this forward. I would note that the New South Wales parliament has recently completed a similar inquiry, and I would urge all members of the committee and the Assembly to look to that. They ended up writing a 115-page report that is extremely comprehensive. They received 123 submissions; they heard from 30 witnesses; and they reached some very strong conclusions in support of the medical use of cannabis. I would see that as a strong foundation for our committee to look to.

**MR HANSON** (Molonglo—Leader of the Opposition) (10.29): At the outset, let me say that the opposition will support a referral of this issue to the health committee. I would like to make some comments around it.

The first one is that, in doing so, in looking for a collegiate way of operating, we should make sure that the committees look at this in an open manner. But springing this on an Assembly without having discussed this issue with the opposition is a bit of a Labor-Green stitch-up or Labor working by themselves. I just make the point that if we want to have a committee system that works cooperatively, if you want to have a look at this in a true bipartisan sense, so that we get the best outcome for the community, some advance notice from the government that this was their intention would have been useful. I just make that point, because there are many times in this chamber when we get told, as I was yesterday: “We can’t support particular amendments because we have not had enough notice to see them. We have only had an hour to look at it.” I have had about 15 seconds to consider what Dr Bourke is proposing. I do not think it is particularly helpful in this regard.

As Mr Rattenbury has alluded to, there has been an inquiry by the New South Wales parliament into this issue. That was an inquiry into the issue of medical marijuana more generally. I would ask that, in this referral, the committee not specifically look just at this piece of legislation: this legislation is necessarily limited in its scope, and any inquiry that looks into this issue needs to have a broad look at the issue of medical marijuana, going beyond the scope of just the legislation.

This is a complex issue. I put on the record that the opposition would be very unlikely to support Mr Rattenbury’s legislation in its current form. But that said, we are very open to having a discussion, to looking at this issue. It is a complex issue. I think we would all agree that we want to come up with good solutions to make sure that those who are terminally ill and people suffering from chronic pain have access to the best and most appropriate medical treatment.

I do have a different view from Mr Rattenbury when it comes to the issue of the ACT acting alone. This is consistent with the opposition’s views on many issues. I think it is a reality that if there is going to be a change to cannabis laws in the ACT, it would be far better that they were in synchronisation and consistent with federal and New South Wales laws. It is a reality that we are a very small jurisdiction and we are surrounded by the large state of New South Wales. If the ACT were to go alone on these matters, that would create unnecessary complexity. So as we move forward with this issue, we should work very closely with New South Wales and with the federal government.

That said, we support the referral of this matter, and I look forward to the committee’s deliberations.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Executive business—precedence**

*Ordered that executive business be called on.*

## **Australian Red Cross—centenary**

**MR BARR** (Molonglo—Deputy Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development, Minister for Housing and Minister for Tourism and Events) (10.34): I move:

That this Assembly:

(1) notes that:

- (a) 2014 is the Centenary year of Red Cross in Australia, a significant milestone in the social history of the nation and commemorating 100 years of humanitarian service to the people of Australia;
- (b) most Australians have shared a personal connection with Red Cross, from its humanitarian role during two World Wars, to preparing, responding to and recovering from natural disasters, or helping vulnerable people and communities overcome disadvantage, and through its world-class national Blood Service;
- (c) for 100 years Australian Red Cross has enjoyed a unique auxiliary status to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, working in partnership with governments of all political persuasions, in Australia and internationally, to alleviate suffering in a voluntary aid capacity whilst adhering to its principles of independence, neutrality and impartiality; and
- (d) Australian Red Cross is part of the world's largest humanitarian movement, with tens of millions of volunteers working in 189 countries, united by the fundamental principle of preventing and alleviating human suffering, without discrimination, wherever it may be found in times of war, conflict, disaster or personal crisis;

(2) recognises that:

- (a) today Australian Red Cross has a network of over one million volunteers, members, staff, donors, aid workers and supporters; and
- (b) through this network, Australian Red Cross mobilises the power of humanity to work right across the country in local communities in every state and territory, and further afield, to help transform the lives of vulnerable people in need, whoever they are; and

(3) calls on the Assembly to:

- (a) join Australian Red Cross in celebrating the 100th anniversary of its founding on 13 August 1914, nine days after the outbreak of World War One;
- (b) congratulate generations of Australians for their extraordinary contributions through the everyday work of Red Cross; and

- (c) continue to support the independent, neutral and impartial humanitarian mission of Red Cross to work with and assist the most vulnerable people in need, both in Australia and internationally. (Notice given 6 August 2014. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on within 8 sitting weeks—standing order 125A.)

I am very pleased to rise this morning in support of a greatly respected organisation. It is an organisation that for 100 years has played a significant role in responding to the needs of local communities right across Australia, whether in the form of recovery from natural disasters or helping vulnerable groups overcome disadvantage. It is an organisation that on a daily basis provides care to families and individuals when and where it is needed most.

Madam Speaker, this motion is about celebrating the centenary of the Australian Red Cross, and in doing so acknowledging the valuable contribution that the Red Cross and its volunteers make to the Canberra community. It is also a motion that the Red Cross is endeavouring to have passed by every parliament in Australia and one that I am pleased to say has the support of all parties in the Assembly.

As many members will already be aware, the Red Cross began as an organisation in Australia nine days after the outbreak of World War I on 13 August 1914. The organisation, known then as the Australian Branch of the British Red Cross Society, saw hundreds of thousands of volunteers sign up during World War I and was Australia's largest charitable organisation by the breakout of World War II. Nearly half a million people, mostly women, were Red Cross members from a population of seven million.

Today there are around one million Red Cross members, consisting of volunteers, donors, staff, blood donors, recipients and supporters who work to make a positive difference to the lives of people in need every single day. Nationwide, this work ranges from disaster relief and providing breakfast to thousands of kids who would otherwise go to school hungry, to making daily phone calls to elderly people and to empowering young people to reduce the harm of alcohol and drug use.

Here in the ACT, Madam Speaker, the Red Cross is a movement with a proud history of service, a history that dates back to a meeting that was called to form the ACT division of the Red Cross in February of 1928, shortly after the federal parliament had moved to Canberra in 1927. This meeting took place in the Albert Hall and was chaired by Major-General Sir Neville Howse VC, formerly the Director-General of Medical Services of the Australian Army.

The then secretary of the Australian Red Cross Society, Miss Philadelphia Robertson, flew from Melbourne to Canberra to attend the meeting in an open cockpit plane which, on its arrival in Canberra, landed on what is now the Ainslie oval. In February 1988, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the ACT division, the event was re-enacted at the Albert Hall.

The history of the Red Cross in the ACT includes a long list of important community services that deliver real outcomes for many families within the community, including our local blood collection service, first-aid training and disaster and personal support services, to name but a few.

Today there are about 1,300 volunteers engaged in Australian Red Cross activities in the ACT. Part of this proud history is the work of Red Cross Australia in responding to the needs of those affected by the 2003 Canberra bushfires. Red Cross volunteers worked alongside ACT government staff in our evacuation centres and assisted hundreds of callers, both locally and overseas, to locate their loved ones during the crisis.

This is just one example, though, of the type of relief and support Red Cross and its volunteers provide communities in emergency situations. As well as delivering local blood collection services and first-aid training, the Red Cross ACT also provides meal and social support services. This is the work that the ACT government is very proud to continue to support. Through ACT Health, Australian Red Cross ACT receives funding each year to deliver the meals on wheels program; the MATES program, a program which connects socially isolated individuals through volunteer companionship and support; the telecross/telechat program, which provides a free daily call to people who are isolated to check on their wellbeing and safety; the home safely service for people with memory loss living in the community who have been identified as being at risk of wandering; and the personal alarms service, aimed at supporting people who need medical assistance at the press of button.

In addition, since 2006 the ACT government has provided funding to Red Cross ACT to support important and longstanding fundraising initiatives, such as the annual Red Cross calling campaign. In the past the Red Cross has also partnered with ACT Health under the previously funded national partnership agreement on preventive health healthy communities initiative to improve healthy food choices for marginalised communities.

This specific partnership has delivered nutrition adviser training to more than 120 community workers at places such as the Early Morning Centre and Ainslie Village about how to improve the nutrition of food provided to vulnerable groups in our community.

It is pleasing to hear that Red Cross is currently investigating embedding this training in courses delivered through the CIT for workers in the community sector. Red Cross and ACT Health have also partnered to develop a series of healthy food cookbooks for people on low incomes. These cookbooks feature meals that are nutritious, low cost and easy to prepare, and they are clearly a great practical resource to support healthy eating. A cookbook for larger groups and families is currently being developed.

Madam Speaker, just as we found last year when celebrating Canberra's 100th birthday, a centenary year is not only about celebrating what has been achieved, although this is very important. It is also about looking ahead and, in the Red Cross's case, raising awareness and reaching out to new people. In order to do this, a number of community events have been organised here in the ACT. These include the Australian Red Cross showcase taking place today, 7 August, along City Walk. This showcase will highlight the range of everyday services that are provided in the ACT



There will be a barbecue at the Bunnings stores in Fyshwick, Belconnen and Tuggeranong on August 9 to raise funds. There will also be the launch of the centenary *International Humanitarian Law Magazine* on 28 August. This is the launch of the specially commissioned centenary edition of the IHL magazine. Of course, there will be the annual Red Cross Centenary Ball on 25 October, which will be held at the Australian War Memorial.

I take this opportunity today to encourage Canberrans to get involved in the celebrations by attending one, or indeed all, of these events, or by sharing their Red Cross experiences by visiting the [centenary.redcross.org.au](http://centenary.redcross.org.au) website. I also encourage Canberrans to think about ways that they can get more involved with the Red Cross. One very simple way is by donating blood.

In conclusion, the Australian Red Cross centenary represents a major achievement. On behalf of the ACT community I congratulate Red Cross Australia on reaching such a significant milestone. I also acknowledge Wenda Donaldson, executive director of the Red Cross here in the ACT and south-eastern New South Wales, and her team of Red Cross members and volunteers whose everyday work makes such a positive difference to the lives of some of our region's most vulnerable people.

I also thank all members of this place today for their support of this motion. I am delighted to have had the opportunity to help celebrate 100 years of humanitarian service by the Red Cross in Australia and thoroughly commend this motion to the Assembly.

**MR HANSON** (Molonglo—Leader of the Opposition) (10.43): I am very pleased to be able to add my voice to this motion and publicly acknowledge the extraordinary role the Red Cross in Australia has made both to the welfare of Australians in need and, in partnership with sister organisations in the Asia Pacific, to peoples in our region at times of grief and despair.

It is great to see representatives, including Mr Sam Wong, here today from the Red Cross. Madam Speaker, as many will know, the formation of the Red Cross in Australia was a humanitarian reaction from everyday Australians at a time when the world faced the daunting and horrific prospects of the First World War. At one of the times of great national despair, the very best in Australian spirit came forward. Lady Munro Ferguson, the wife of the then Governor-General, began the Australian Branch of the British Red Cross Society on 13 August 1914, nine days after the outbreak of World War I.

Red Cross in Australia in its earliest days was committed, and still is committed, to finding compassionate responses for those in greatest need, committed to finding ways to relieve suffering, committed to bringing families back together and committed to the welfare of all peoples everywhere. The Red Cross movement was born out of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield and to work to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found.

In 1914, support for the Red Cross was overwhelming and hundreds of thousands of volunteers signed up during World War I. In New South Wales alone, more than 300 branches were created in the first three months. By World War II, Red Cross had become Australia's largest charitable organisation. From a population of seven million, nearly half a million people were Red Cross members. Most of them were women.

In the postwar period Red Cross focused on social welfare, national emergencies, natural disasters, the blood service and first-aid programs, sustained by an extensive network of thousands of volunteers. The Red Cross is Australia's largest humanitarian charity with a broad national reach and strong links in our region.

This centenary represents a major achievement for Red Cross, and a significant milestone in the social history of Australia. It is extraordinary that most Australians have shared a personal connection with the Red Cross since 1914. It is the leading global and local independent humanitarian organisation, and holds a significant place as one of Australia's most trusted and respected charities.

With a broad national reach of over 80 offices, the Red Cross can mobilise more than 30,000 highly skilled volunteers and staff to deliver a diverse range of programs in emergency services, social services, community development, overseas aid programs, first aid and the blood service.

The Australian Red Cross is at once a local organisation and an international one. Its services are simple and are complex, as are the challenges that people in need face. In our Canberra community, for those suffering or oppressed and who seek a voice, the Red Cross is there for those in need, regardless of nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. They are impartial, neutral and independent. The Australian Red Cross in Canberra provides services that can be as simple as a phone call to an elderly person living alone or the provision of breakfast for a child who is missing out.

Red Cross's first Canberra services were to socially isolated Canberrans across the territory through the telecross program, providing older isolated Australians with a daily phone call to check on their safety and wellbeing. It is fantastic to see that in 2014 the telecross program continues to operate with the support of community volunteers from the Red Cross call centre in Garran.

The Red Cross runs a number of programs, including the MATES program, which assists socially isolated people and particularly older people to re-connect with the community through regular contact with Red Cross volunteers. The community visitors scheme aims to enhance the quality of life of people living in aged care facilities. Volunteers provide regular visits to socially isolated residents for highly valued companionship and friendship.

The telechat program matches people living in the community who may be experiencing social isolation with a volunteer who calls them once or twice a week for a social chat. Personal alarms is a service that assists people at risk of an accident or sudden illness, wandering due to old age, ill health or disability by providing eligible people with personal alarms.

The Red Cross also works with families, youth and communities. Roadhouse provides a hot meal, information, referral and support to people who are homeless, at risk of homelessness or experiencing financial difficulty. The roadhouse has been providing these services since 1990 to the most vulnerable Canberrans and has served over 400,000 meals to people in need.

For more than 40 years meals on wheels volunteers have been delivering nutritious meals to those who cannot shop or cook for themselves. This service is more than just a meal. It is a friendly greeting and a regular check on people's wellbeing.

FOODcents is a program under which trained Red Cross volunteers and staff deliver workshops on healthy eating options on a budget. FOODcents has been delivered to community workers in the inner north of Canberra to increase their knowledge and understanding of nutrition and in social housing.

Under the youth engagement program, Red Cross provides opportunities for young people to get involved and to be part of the largest humanitarian organisation in the world. Red Cross operates the good start breakfast clubs. In partnership with 15 schools in Canberra and the surrounding area, Red Cross provides breakfast to vulnerable young children. Save-a-mate promotes the health and wellbeing of young people by providing education and support on health issues, particularly related to alcohol, other drug use and mental health issues.

Within the ACT, the Red Cross provides a valuable role in emergency management, working to build community resilience and supporting vulnerable people in times of crisis. With the support of Red Cross volunteers and by providing personal support, the organisation reconnects people with families and friends, plays a role in emergency shelters, contributes to community-driven recovery and manages public appeals to provide financial relief.

I take this opportunity, noting that a number of members are here, as I said before, to acknowledge the Divisional Advisory Board of the ACT. I recognise their commitment and their contribution to our community. Mr Sam Wong is the chair. Ms Wendy Prowse is the deputy chair. The members of the board of the ACT are Lisa Bell, Matt Eyles, David Hatherly, Von Harrington, Michael Harrison who is the youth representative, Phillip Kimpton, Richard Pembery AM, Geoff Skillen, Alan Wu and Ms Wenda Donaldson, who is the executive director.

I would like to put on the public record the appreciation of the Canberra Liberals for the hard work of the ACT board, the leadership team, the staff, and above all the volunteers and donors from across Canberra, who year in, year out contribute to the great work for the Red Cross in Canberra.

## Visitors

**MADAM SPEAKER:** I acknowledge the presence in the gallery of Mr Sam Wong, the chairman of the ACT Red Cross, and other members of Red Cross. Welcome to your Assembly.

## **Australian Red Cross—centenary**

**MR RATTENBURY** (Molonglo) (10.51): I am happy to support the motion before us, which recognises the 100th anniversary of the Red Cross movement in Australia, and to welcome members of the Red Cross in the gallery today. The International Red Cross has a unique place in our history. Born from the horrors of war, its stated aims are to reduce suffering and to ensure respect for all human beings. The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement are active in war zones and conflict areas across the world and are present at every major natural disaster and catastrophe. It is testament to its enduring nature that the Red Cross and Red Crescent symbols are instantly recognisable the world over as a sign of safety, neutrality, impartiality and universality.

The Red Cross for us represents health, medicine, support and refuge, regardless of where you see it, and that, too, is part of the ethos of the movement. It is because of its founder, Jean Henri Dunant, that we have an international Geneva convention, another widely recognised symbol of the basic humanity we all share, regardless of where we are and regardless of war and armed conflict. It is one of those curious things that it sometimes takes acts of barbarism and terror to bring out the best in humanity, and it was Henry Dunant's experiences of the battlefield and the suffering and pain of unleashed violence that caused him to develop a new vision. It is the Red Cross that reminds governments and armed forces that even wars have laws—rules of engagement for armed conflict and soldiers and rules for the protection of innocents and civilians caught up in the terrible insanity that is war.

It was the outbreak of the First World War that galvanised Lady Helen Munro Ferguson to start an Australian branch of the British Red Cross. Australia was a very young country back then and still considered a child of the British Empire, taking our lead from a far distant London. As we commemorate the 100 years since that terrible war, we can also recognise how far our country has come since then. Here we are today, 100 years later, celebrating the work the Australian Red Cross does each day in our community.

From aged care to first aid, Red Cross plays a vital role in Canberra and the capital region, often working behind the scenes, a long way from the tragic headlines of global interest. The local chapter supports social inclusion and offers practical assistance to those in need. A powerful volunteer force works alongside paid staff to provide the MATES home and community care program that can assist people in overcoming loneliness and social isolation.

There is a renewed focus on working with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as partners in employment and training services. I am sure nearly everyone here has, at some point in their lives, been trained in essential lifesaving first aid skills by the Red Cross. But their work in local community extends even further, to embrace many vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. They run budgeting and nutrition classes, hold breakfast clubs across 15 schools, and have for over 40 years provided meals on wheels to those who cannot shop or cook for themselves. Their youth engagement program provides opportunities for young people to get involved and be part of the largest humanitarian organisation in the world.

I would like to specifically point out their work in Australia and across the world in assisting refugees and newly arrived migrants. As we know, refugees settling in Australia face a long, hard road with many barriers and conditions placed on them before being able to fully join in our community life. I know the local Red Cross, in strong partnership with the ACT government, does a great job of supporting them, with housing, basic human rights services and resettlement support at a time when the actions of the federal government seem designed to compound existing disadvantage.

On a national level, we all rely on the Red Cross to be there on the ground as soon as disaster strikes. From Brisbane to Canberra to Hobart, the Red Cross disaster relief and recovery are available to help members of the affected community. They also play a strong official partnership role with local governments and the relevant disaster recovery plans for that area. Internationally, the Australian Red Cross, in cooperation with its partner agencies, has been sending volunteers and staff to wherever they are needed. I know that when I think of the complete devastation of the Boxing Day tsunami. No doubt, we can all recall the Red Cross advertisements calling on the generosity of Australians to help with both the immediate crisis and the longer term rebuilding.

We, as a society, need agencies like the Red Cross to give an expression to the positives we have to offer, a channel for our compassion, generosity and desire to live in a better, fairer world. I thank them for this work, and as we celebrate 100 years, I am sure we will be thanking them again in the future. From ensuring the raw and terrible memories of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are never forgotten, to ensuring that our senior citizens are not forgotten, the Red Cross is essential agency for a world that is still struggling with conflict, injustice and humans rights abuses. I conclude by simply thanking them for their significant contributions.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

## **Auditor-General Amendment Bill 2014**

Debate resumed from 5 June 2014, on motion by **Ms Gallagher**:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

**MR SMYTH** (Brindabella) (10.57): The Canberra Liberals will be agreeing to the Auditor-General Amendment Bill 2014. It is simply a machinery bill that clarifies the consultation period required to be undertaken by the Auditor-General when she delivers a draft version of a report. The act as it currently stands could be taken to mean that every time she consults on a draft she has to have 14 days consultation. Therefore, if she revises a draft there is another 14 days, and on it goes. It seems a simple amendment, and we will be supporting it.

**MR BARR** (Molonglo—Deputy Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development, Minister for Housing and Minister for Tourism and Events) (10.58): On behalf of the Chief Minister, I thank Mr Smyth and also Mr Rattenbury for their support of this bill. There were, of course, comprehensive changes to the Auditor-

General Act 1996 that came into effect on 20 February 2014, and those changes modernised the act; implemented a number of public accounts committee recommendations, including provisions to reinforce the independence of the Auditor-General; and enhanced arrangements for this function. A range of new consultation requirements were also part of those amendments.

The Chief Minister presented the bill in June and it will clarify consultation requirements in two important regards. The 14-day consultation requirement will only apply to one version of the draft report provided to an auditee for consultation, and the Auditor-General will only need to provide an organisation with the parts of a report that are relevant to it.

These changes are important in ensuring the effectiveness and productivity of the work of the Auditor-General and maintaining probity on sensitive information while ensuring auditees are appropriately consulted on matters relevant to them. The first three clauses of the bill are standard preliminary clauses and include specification of the date of commencement. The new act will commence the day after notification. The government has given priority to early consideration of the bill in order to ensure that the Auditor-General can carry out her 2014 work program in a timely way.

Clause 4 replaces existing text with revised text and achieves the main goals of this bill. The 2013 changes to the act introduced new consultation requirements for certain Auditor-General reports to be tabled in the Assembly. These provisions required the Auditor-General to provide auditees drafts of the report and allow them 14 days for comment. However, the requirements applied every time the Auditor-General provides draft text. The Auditor-General's preferred approach is to consult iteratively on reports, ensuring the timely completion of these reports. This provision can, of course, lead to a significant increase in the time required to finalise the audits. The current bill therefore clarifies that the new 14-day consultation provision only applies to one identified draft consultation report.

The bill also enhances probity aspects of the consultation requirements. Some reports prepared by the Auditor-General audit the work of more than one organisation. The bill will ensure that the Auditor-General only needs to provide those parts of a draft report that are relevant to an organisation. This would be important in cases where a draft report includes sensitive material about an auditee that should not be provided to third parties before the report is provided to the Assembly.

In conclusion, this amendment bill further enhances and supports the Auditor-General's critical role in ensuring the good governance of the territory, and I thank colleagues for their support of the bill.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Bill agreed to in principle.

Leave granted to dispense with the detail stage.

Bill agreed to.

## Leave of absence

Motion (by **Dr Bourke**) agreed to:

That leave of absence be granted to Ms Gallagher for this sitting on account of her representation of the ACT at the national MH17 Memorial Service in Melbourne today.

## Territory and Municipal Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2014

Debate resumed from 8 May 2014, on motion by **Mr Rattenbury**:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

**MR COE** (Ginninderra) (11.02): The Canberra Liberals will support the passing of the Territory and Municipal Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2014. The bill only makes small changes to existing legislation and regulation, these being the Animal Diseases Act 2005, the Domestic Animals Act 2000, the Public Unleased Land Act 2013 and the Magistrates Court (Domestic Animals Infringement Notices) Regulation 2005.

In terms of the Animal Diseases Act, the bill changes the definition of “swill” to “prohibited pig feed”, in line with the nationally consistent approach outlined in the national foot and mouth disease action plan. This plan was developed by the National Biosecurity Committee in response to the Matthews report commissioned by the federal government. The bill also amends the definition of “swill feeding” to “feeding of prohibited pig feed” to meet the same national approach. These changes are only minimal and bring the ACT in line with a nationally agreed foot and mouth disease prevention strategy.

Of greater substance, a new section is introduced into the Animal Diseases Act, section 34A. This section allows the minister to remove the exemptions to prohibited pig feed in the event of a foot and mouth disease outbreak in Australia. As we saw in the United Kingdom in 2001, an outbreak of foot and mouth disease could devastate Australian production, tourism and trade, and this added section will allow the ACT government to better deal with an outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the unlikely and unfortunate event of an outbreak in Australia

A minor change is made by the bill to the Domestic Animals Act. The term “cat curfew” will be replaced by the term “cat containment”, notably in the headings of sections 81 and 82 of the act. This change is made so that the intention of the legislation is better reflected. As a result of this change, the term “cat containment” is also substituted in the Magistrates Court (Domestic Animals Infringement Notices) Regulation 2005, replacing the term “cat curfew.”

Finally, the word “fixed” is inserted in section 26 of the Public Unleased Land Act to clarify that it is an offence to place a fixed, as opposed to a moveable, sign on public

unleased land without approval. The bill also corrects an incorrect reference to section 101 in section 98 of the act, substituting the correct reference to section 99. Again, these amendments do not change the intention of the act. Rather, the amendments only clarify the existing intention of the legislation.

In summary, the bill brings the ACT in line with a nationally agreed foot and mouth disease action plan and makes minor changes to clarify the intention of the Domestic Animals Act and the Public Unleased Land Act. I reaffirm that the Canberra Liberals will be supporting this legislation.

**MR RATTENBURY** (Molonglo—Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Minister for Corrective Services, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs and Minister for Sport and Recreation) (11.05), in reply: I rise to close debate on the Territory and Municipal Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, an omnibus bill that makes minor and technical amendments to several pieces of legislation within the TAMS portfolio. Specifically, this bill amends the Animal Diseases Act 2005, Domestic Animals Act 2000, Magistrates Court (Domestic Animals Infringement Notices) Regulation 2005 and the Public Unleased Land Act 2013.

The changes proposed in this bill in relation to animal disease will ensure that the territory remains consistent and harmonised with the legislation of other Australian jurisdictions when it comes to managing potential threats related to animal disease outbreaks. One of the purposes of these amendments is to ensure regulation that prevents poor management of animal feed, to protect animals against the spread of disease. These regulatory provisions, however, do more than just protect animals. The legislation protects the community from potential outbreaks of disease, diseases which can have a devastating impact on the territory and Australia more generally.

The outbreak of certain diseases can impact on our health and the economy. In the event of a disease outbreak, the appropriate biosecurity response is to limit the movement of people and animals, which will obviously have a flow-on effect by impacting on the movement of goods such as food and fuel. In more recent memory, the impact of an outbreak of equine influenza, for example, stopped the movement of horses and the movement of people who worked with horses and closed industries and activities that involved horses.

The bill before us today makes changes to the Animal Diseases Act by removing the term “swill” from the act. It brings the act into line with nationally agreed terminology which now defines prohibited pig feed and controls the feeding of prohibited pig feed to controlled stock. Swill is the traditional name given to the feeding of food scraps containing animal matter and other waste material to pigs, chickens and ruminants. The unregulated practice of swill feeding has been the source of foot and mouth disease outbreaks overseas including, as I mentioned when I introduced this legislation, the catastrophic foot and mouth disease epidemic in the United Kingdom in 2001.

Swill feeding is well recognised as a significant risk factor for the introduction of several animal diseases, with a potential for devastating impacts on Australia’s



livestock and related industries and overall economy. The Matthews report, commissioned by the Australian government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in 2011, identified the effectiveness of swill feeding regulations as one of 11 significant issues in foot and mouth disease prevention and preparedness.

The National Biosecurity Committee, in response to the Matthews report, developed a national foot and mouth disease action plan. The development of nationally harmonised legislation that controls the feeding of pigs forms a key part of that plan. Biosecurity management is work that transcends politics and, as the ACT's primary industries minister, I participated in the former standing council on primary industries and now participate in the newly formed Agriculture Ministers Forum and I can affirm this important work is continuing, despite any political turnover.

TAMS is currently participating in the national emergency preparedness project, Odysseus, working with other jurisdictions to develop the capability to respond to the risk of an outbreak of foot and mouth disease. The project involves all states and territories and is being coordinated by the commonwealth government. The year-long project will plan and test government and industry preparedness to respond to a foot and mouth disease outbreak by undertaking test exercises in all states and territories.

As an adjunct to the national work, TAMS is working on a number of fronts to improve the territory's preparedness for emergency disease outbreaks. As part of this work, the TAMS biosecurity emergency plan has been updated to include contemporary thinking about foot and mouth disease emergency management.

Emergency animal disease control activities are further supported by other changes that this bill introduces. The new section 34A provides that when there is an outbreak of foot and mouth disease, the minister can declare that prohibited pig feed includes other material that is problematic in spreading disease in case that disease is in the food chain.

It is important that the territory plans well for such potential events. The locality of the ACT and the management of the traffic that flows through the area mean that Canberra will be pivotal in managing the region's response to a foot and mouth disease outbreak. Contemporary, harmonised legislation and practice and testing through emergency management exercises are important in ensuring, in the unfortunate event of an outbreak, that we will be well prepared and working collaboratively and in a coordinated response with the rest of Australia.

Now to the second area of amendment contained in this bill that we are debating: the bill changes the word "curfew" to "containment" in the Domestic Animals Act in relation to managing cats in certain areas of Canberra, in particular newer suburbs adjacent to nature reserves. This amendment is designed to better reflect the intention of the legislation in requiring cat owners, in declared areas, to contain their cats to their property. The current arrangement is not, as the current legislation suggests, a curfew. Cats in declared areas are not allowed to roam no matter the time of day, as lizards and birds are still at risk during the day. Rather, the purpose of the legislation is to protect both the health of the cats and also native wildlife by confining cats at all times to either a house or purpose-built cat enclosure.

As members will be aware, the ACT government has declared cat containment areas in Gungahlin, Molonglo and north Canberra—in Bonner, Crace, Coombs, Denman, Prospect, Forde, the Fair at north Watson, Lawson, Molonglo and Wright. These areas are adjacent to sensitive bush ecosystems that could be negatively impacted by the close vicinity of roaming felines. Residents within these cat containment areas are required to keep their cats contained to their premises 24 hours a day. It is anticipated that this amendment will enhance residents' understanding of the objective of the legislation and their obligations.

Amendments are also proposed in this bill to the Magistrates Court (Domestic Animals Infringement Notices) Regulation 2005. An infringement notice scheme in relation to cats in declared areas already exists. The new regulation, in effect, is a consequential amendment allowing for the issuing of infringement notices consistent with the new term "containment".

The final act which the bill amends is the Public Unleased Land Act 2013. The proposed changes clarify a provision in the original intention of the legislation and also correct a drafting error. During the federal election campaign in September 2013, it became apparent that the Public Unleased Land Act could be interpreted to mean that an approval is required to place any sign on unleased land, whether that sign is fixed or movable. This was not the intention of the legislation.

The bill therefore amends section 26 of the Public Unleased Land Act to provide that an approval is only required when fixed signs are placed on public land, and thus no approval is required for movable signs. The placement of movable signs in public places must however comply with the relevant code of practice, and offences may attract a penalty.

The bill also amends an incorrect reference in section 98(4)(d)(i) of the Public Unleased Land Act by replacing the incorrect reference to section 101 with the correct reference to section 99. Amendments to the Public Unleased Land Act will improve the laws that govern the use of public land by providing clarity about these matters.

The amendments proposed in this bill are only of a minor or technical nature. The changes do not change the application of the acts that are to be amended. Importantly, the amendments to the animal diseases legislation provide for the ACT to ensure its laws are consistent with those of other Australian jurisdictions. Proposed changes to the Domestic Animals Act and Public Unleased Land Act will provide clarity in application of the law.

I believe it is important to regularly review and strengthen the ACT's statute book to ensure that our legislation is both up-to-date and responsive to the ACT community. I thank members for their input into this debate and for their support for this legislation today.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Bill agreed to in principle.

Leave granted to dispense with the detail stage.

Bill agreed to.

## **National disability insurance scheme—implementation Ministerial statement**

**MS BURCH** (Brindabella—Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Disability, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Minister for Racing and Gaming, Minister for Women and Minister for the Arts), by leave: I am very pleased today to report on progress with implementing the national disability insurance scheme in the ACT.

On 7 May and 4 June this year, the Assembly, in separate resolutions, called for regular reports on the implementation of disability reform in the ACT. Our community will know that the launch of the NDIS was on 1 July this year. I went to that launch, along with senator for the ACT Zed Seselja. I enjoyed celebrating the launch with many people who had made the scheme possible in the ACT.

That day was the start of the ACT NDIS trial for over 5,000 people with disability and for their families. The next two years will demonstrate how effective a national scheme can be for them and how greater certainty of funding can make a positive difference in their lives.

The ACT government is committing \$14.41 million to the NDIS in this financial year, and by 2019-20 the ACT government will provide \$167 million and the commonwealth contribution will be \$175 million of the total cost.

One of the most important decisions made by the commonwealth and ACT governments is the way in which people with disability will phase in to the NDIS. We knew we needed to plan the way in which individuals would access the scheme over the two-year trial period.

I announced the phase-in timetable on 4 June this year, following agreement with the commonwealth Assistant Minister for Social Services, Senator Mitch Fifield. The timetable provides for people to begin the transition to the NDIS according to their age or their stage of life. About 162 people will transition to the NDIS in the first quarter.

The cut-off age for the NDIS is 65 years and adults are transitioning from oldest to youngest so that they do not miss out. Children are transitioning according to their school year or by age if they are not yet at school.

People living in disability group homes are moving into the NDIS according to the age of the youngest person living in their home. From July to September 2014, residents of five group homes whose youngest member is 22 or younger will be assessed by the National Disability Insurance Agency.

I want to assure current clients that until they transition into the NDIS they will continue to receive the services they currently receive. The NDIA and existing government and non-government service providers are working together to make sure that their clients are supported through this change.

On 26 July this year the National Disability Services and the ACT government hosted a “meet the housing providers” expo, with organisations currently providing or proposing to provide in-home support and supported accommodation participating. The event was highly successful, with many people with a disability and their families currently living in supported accommodation provided by Disability ACT attending.

The NDIS needs to be supported by a strong non-government sector in the ACT. We know that about 64 service providers have registered with the NDIA, including Disability ACT, Therapy ACT and relevant ACT Health Directorate services. Other providers are registering with the NDIA since they released the ACT pricing schedule for services on 30 June this year. The ACT government has also extended service funding agreements with non-government organisations for up to two years to ensure that services are adequately funded for the trial period.

In terms of pricing, in order to develop the market nationally, the NDIA is aiming to deregulate its pricing in the longer term. At this early stage the NDIA has decided to develop a transitional approach to a benchmark efficient market price from 1 July 2016.

The ACT pricing schedule was adjusted in accordance with the recent NDIA pricing review conducted with National Disability Services. The NDIA pricing includes a transitional price of a 10 per cent loading for personal care and a 2.6 per cent loading for indexation.

I thank the ACT NDIS task force, led by Maureen Sheehan, who has worked with the NDIA since February this year to develop the pricing schedule for the ACT. The NDIS task force sought to inform the NDIA about the unique aspects of the ACT market and provided information about wages data, the high proportion of government services and the economies of scale in our local market. Consequently, the NDIA further adjusted the ACT pricing in order to sustain service providers for the first year of the trial.

Developing the market in the ACT has also meant supporting service providers to change their business model to operate under the new service and funding arrangements.

On 27 June I announced that 20 disability service providers, including the Cerebral Palsy Alliance, Koomarri and Canberra Men’s Centre, shared \$1 million worth of sector development funding to help prepare for the NDIS. Each organisation was granted a business investment package worth \$50,000. The package allows organisations to select a consultant to provide business advice and mentoring, and implement reform plans and infrastructure improvements in readiness for the transition. We initially offered 10 packages and, given the demand, extended that to add an additional 10 organisations.

Workforce is an important element of preparing for the NDIS. The ACT government decision to gradually withdraw from early intervention, therapy and supported accommodation services was needed to be able to develop the diverse and competitive services that people with disability can access. This decision was made with the knowledge that the existing government workforce would need to move to the non-government sector.

Madam Deputy Speaker, as you know, the ACT government and unions agreed to a memorandum of understanding of industrial relations arrangements for the implementation of the ACT trial of the national disability insurance scheme. This agreement provides a fair process to facilitate the movement of nearly 500 employees from the public sector to non-government employment over a three-year period. It balances a flexible approach to staffing with safeguards to ensure clients are not left without support.

All parties contributed to the negotiations positively and the agreement is a testament to their commitment to people with disability in the ACT. The agreement provides for all permanent affected officers to access a voluntary redundancy package once an affected worker makes a decision to leave the public service. A large part of the agreement concerns retraining to assist employees to be job ready and build capacity in the non-government sector.

My Assembly colleagues are aware that the Education and Training Directorate early intervention services will end by December this year and new non-government services will commence for the first term in 2015. The ACT NDIS task force engaged KPMG to meet with families, service providers and peak organisations about establishing new early intervention services.

KPMG have reported that there was significant interest in providing early intervention services amongst the 31 organisations interviewed. Cerebral Palsy Alliance, Northcott, House with No Steps, Yooralla, AEIOU, DUO, Catholic Care and Autism Spectrum Australia are interested in providing early intervention services in our local community.

I have said I would make available, for a limited time, facilities in schools to assist organisations in establishing their services. I made that decision as it will assist children to remain in familiar school surroundings for the time being. The Education and Training Directorate has audited its facilities used for early intervention programs and other possible sites that may be appropriate for use by non-government early intervention service providers.

The ACT NDIS task force, Therapy ACT and the Education and Training Directorate are also well into the planning for the expo of early intervention providers that will be held on 13 September this year as required by the Assembly motion of 4 June.

Therapy ACT services will gradually cease by December 2016. In the meantime Therapy ACT continues to provide its usual suite of services for children, young people and adults with disability. At this stage significant effort is being made in engaging with non-government providers interested in establishing therapy services in the ACT.

Retaining Therapy ACT health professional staff in the workforce is also important for the success of the NDIS in the ACT. Career planning conversations have commenced in order to gain an understanding of the career intentions of our staff. Staff secondments to non-government services will occur as a means for staff to gain a better understanding of working in this sector.

Disability ACT is implementing a transformation project, my life, my choice, to move the supported accommodation service from a one-size-fits-all model to individual household service models. This involves developing individual plans with each client and their families prior to their planning conversation with the NDIA. The NDIA has also commenced planning conversations with those Disability ACT households identified for the transition during the July to September quarter.

I will continue to make commitments to provide regular reports to the Assembly in accordance with the 4 June resolution, and generally because I think it is of interest to our community. My next report will be in the first sitting week of term 4 this year, with an update on the readiness of early intervention non-government service providers that will commence in 2015.

The NDIA quarterly reports to the Disability Reform Council will provide the relevant evidence to measure progress of the ACT NDIS trial. I plan to report then following the release of each NDIA quarterly report.

In conclusion, the launch of the ACT NDIS trial is a testament to the commitment of people with disability in the ACT and their families. I wish to acknowledge their determination to make this national reform a reality not just for themselves but for those people who may need to access the scheme into the future.

I thank the individuals, families, the staff from the directorate and the support of the non-government providers in making this launch and transition the success it has been to date. It has only been five weeks, but it is a change for our community and a change for the better. Whilst there is uncertainty, I know it is the right choice and that the right outcomes will be found in the end.

**Sitting suspended from 11.27 am to 2.30 pm.**

## **Ministerial arrangements**

**MR BARR** (Molonglo—Deputy Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development, Minister for Housing and Minister for Tourism and Events): The Chief Minister will be absent from question time today, so I will endeavour to assist members in the Chief Minister's portfolios.

## **Questions without notice**

### **Kangaroos—cull**

**MR HANSON:** My question is to the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services. Minister, I refer to statements that you made on the ABC in July 2011. You said: "It's

always very controversial these sorts of actions, but you have to stand up for what you believe in sometimes.” You then added: “I’ve certainly been involved in action in the past where Greenpeace has broken the law and that has been necessary to highlight what we’ve considered at the time to be a greater issue.” Minister, what actions have you taken to try to persuade animal activists not to vandalise TAMS property?

**MR RATTENBURY:** I have made it very clear to those, through my comments in the media, that the actions that have been undertaken have not had any impact on the cull. They have in fact simply damaged TAMS property. I think this is an important distinction to draw out—the difference between wanton vandalism and civil disobedience.

*Opposition members interjecting—*

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Order members! Let Mr Rattenbury answer the question.

**MR RATTENBURY:** Those who take part in civil disobedience will generally own up to things that they have done. They have the courage of their convictions and they will stand by them. These wanton acts of vandalism are simply that.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Supplementary question, Mr Hanson.

**MR HANSON:** Minister, why were you so reluctant to criticise this ongoing vandalism other than your statement last July?

**MR RATTENBURY:** I have been quite clear in my criticism of these acts of vandalism at the TAMS depots.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Supplementary question, Ms Berry.

**MS BERRY:** Minister, how have TAMS staff been supported throughout the vandalism out at the TAMS depots?

**MR RATTENBURY:** It has been difficult for the TAMS staff who have been involved in these incidents. They have had to come to work to face significant damage to their workplaces. They have had to spend time focusing on repairing this work rather than delivering services for the Canberra community.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** A supplementary question, Ms Lawder.

**MS LAWDER:** Minister, has your past involvement in so-called civil disobedience by Greenpeace made you reluctant to criticise similar activities by others here in the chamber?

**MR RATTENBURY:** I will express my views on a range of matters in a range of ways.

## **Kangaroos—cull**

**MRS JONES:** Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services. Recently you said this about the vandalism at a TAMS depot:

Certainly the incident at the Holder depot was particularly unstrategic on the part of the activists if they were seeking to have an impact on the kangaroo cull—all they did was damage equipment that was used by City Services for cleaning the city. This resulted in a delay in the cleaning of various shopping centres, public toilets and other public amenities around the city.

How long was cleaning of various shopping centres, public toilets and other public amenities delayed, and has the backlog of work caused by this vandalism been cleared?

**MR RATTENBURY:** It was delayed because people were unable to use equipment that had been damaged. Yes, I believe the staff have caught up, but I will double-check that for Mrs Jones's benefit and confirm it by the end of question time.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** A supplementary question, Mrs Jones.

**MRS JONES:** Minister, what areas suffered in particular with the delays as a result of the vandalism?

**MR RATTENBURY:** I believe it was in the Woden and Weston Creek areas. If I have any further information to add to that, I will also report that back later. But it was those two districts that were predominantly affected.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Supplementary question, Ms Lawder.

**MS LAWDER:** Minister, what actions have you taken to improve security at TAMS depots as a result of the vandalism?

**MR RATTENBURY:** A number of steps have been put in place. I am reluctant to provide the full details in this environment in order to maintain TAMS's security capabilities where possible.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** A supplementary question, Dr Bourke.

**DR BOURKE:** Minister, what were the benefits of the cull?

**MR RATTENBURY:** As the government has maintained for a number of years, the purpose of the conservation cull is to provide ecological balance in Canberra's nature reserves. Unfortunately, we have a situation where, through changes in the environment, kangaroos are now overgrazing due to uncontained population numbers. This is a result of lack of natural predation and significant supplies of water. What this means is that, unfortunately, we do get an ecological imbalance in the nature reserves.



The areas of grassland and the areas of woodlands are important for a range of species, and we are seeing an imbalance where the overgrazing by kangaroos is having an impact on other threatened and endangered species in those ecosystems. That creates the necessity for undertaking these things. So it is about protecting all of the species in the ecosystem and ensuring that ecological balance is there.

### **Housing—community**

**MS LAWDER:** My question is to the Minister for Housing. Minister, on 22 June this year the government announced that they would begin work on a strategic plan for community housing in Canberra. Minister, after being in government for 13 years, why has it taken this long to begin working on a strategic plan for community housing?

**MR BARR:** I will forgive Ms Lawder because she has not been in this place for a long time, but it is the next phase of development of the community housing sector in the territory.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** A supplementary question, Ms Lawder.

**MS LAWDER:** Minister, why did it take a report from ACT Shelter on community housing to prompt the government to announce they would develop this strategic plan?

**MR BARR:** It did not.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** A supplementary question, Dr Bourke.

**DR BOURKE:** Minister, what will be the benefits of the strategic plan?

**Mrs Jones:** Housing.

**MR BARR:** Indeed. The benefits will be bringing new players into the housing market, into the community housing sector, in addition to the players who have been developing over recent times. The ACT government, through a revolving line of credit, provided support for Community Housing Canberra to continue its rate of growth. Argyle have come into the market in a significant way and are partnering with government on a number of projects. We have also seen the rationalisation of the sector to reflect growing trends across the nation in terms of needing a sufficient scale to be able to provide the significant increase in supply that is necessary.

Within the community housing sector there are two distinct elements: a particular focus on tenancy management and providing a different approach to what you might expect in the public housing sphere or alternatively from a private housing tenancy management arrangement; and also what you could describe as the not-for-profit development model that Community Housing Canberra, for example, has been pursuing quite effectively, where the proceeds and profits from one development are ploughed into the next project, with a goal to continue to add to the supply of housing in the territory. Ultimately, that is what we are working towards—an increase in supply in public housing, community housing and in the private market.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Supplementary question, Mr Doszpot.

**MR DOSZPOT:** Minister, what strategy has the government been referring to when making decisions regarding community housing up until now?

**MR BARR:** The affordable housing strategy in its various iterations from the period of 2007. Before that, it was before my time in the Assembly.

### **Budget—Ginninderra initiatives**

**DR BOURKE:** My question is to the Treasurer: can you please outline how the 2014-15 budget invests in my electorate of Ginninderra?

*Opposition members interjecting—*

**MR BARR:** I am pleased the opposition are showing some interest in the electorate of Ginninderra, outnumbered as they are.

*Opposition members interjecting—*

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Order, members. Mr Barr, if you would confine yourself to answering the question and not baiting the opposition we might get along a lot quicker.

**MR BARR:** It does not require much bait, I must say, But, nonetheless, it is good that there is a bit of energy left on the other side on a Thursday afternoon. I thank Dr Bourke for raising this issue, because Dr Bourke has asked more questions about Ginninderra than you lot combined.

This question relates, of course, to the wonderful array of initiatives in Ginninderra in the 2014-15 budget. Headlining these initiatives are, of course, significant investments in the health portfolio. I think we all understand that that is an area of government that is the most valued of all areas by the ACT community. This budget provides an additional \$10 million for an additional eight full-time equivalent staff at the Belconnen Community Health Centre. It also provides full-year funding for the new Belconnen walk-in centre, which will provide advice and treatment for people with minor illness and injury.

The government is also planning for the longer term with significant population growth expected in this region and, of course, the continued ageing of the population. Our health system must be augmented to meet this demand for quality services. That is why the budget also contains provision for the University of Canberra public hospital that will provide subacute health services as part of the ACT's public hospital network. This co-location of the University of Canberra provides opportunities for teaching and research through partnerships with the university.

Recognising also the role that Calvary hospital plays in the territory's healthcare network, the government has invested in upgrading and expanding facilities at

Calvary, and this includes funding for the development of 15 extra beds, part of a four-year program to deliver an additional 54 acute beds between July 2013 and June 2017.

There is funding to expand ophthalmology services, lymphedema services and an extra intensive care unit bed as part of a \$15.2 million initiative to boost intensive and critical care services in our hospitals. In addition, at Calvary there is a \$19.1 million appropriation for the construction of a 700-vehicle car park on the campus. This will enable continued expansion of health services at Calvary.

The budget also provides nearly \$21 million for a new co-located ambulance and fire station in Aranda, which will provide a modern, purpose-built building that will give our firefighters and paramedics a high quality facility enabling them to continue to provide high quality, rapid and effective responses to emergencies in Belconnen and further afield if necessary. The new station completes phase 1 of the Emergency Services Agency station upgrade and relocation strategy, which includes the recently opened ambulance and fire station in west Belconnen.

The budget also contains initiatives in the electorate of Ginninderra to boost disability access at the Bruce campus at CIT and upgrade recycling drop-off areas at Belconnen and west Belconnen. There are computer security and other upgrades at both Kippax and Belconnen public libraries, and Cook shops receives an upgrade. *(Time expired.)*

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Supplementary question, Dr Bourke.

**DR BOURKE:** Can the Treasurer inform the members how the 2014-15 budget invests in roads and transport in Ginninderra?

**MR BARR:** There is a considerable investment in roads and transport infrastructure, including \$10 million over this year and the coming two years for upgrades of the intersection of William Slim Drive and the Barton Highway, one of the more major intersections in our city's road network and a gateway to the fast-growing Gungahlin region. This funding upgrade will help improve safety and the flow of traffic at the intersection. Works will include signalisation and extra lanes on the roundabout and approaches, on-road cycle lanes, a shared path bridge across Ginninderra Creek and works to accommodate increased traffic.

Elsewhere in Ginninderra there will be upgrades to Maribyrnong Avenue and Copland Drive. Public transport users will benefit from greater coverage of weekend bus services, with a new weekend bus service to west Macgregor. There will also be a range of upgrades to bus stops, particularly on Southern Cross Drive.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Supplementary question, Mr Coe.

**MR COE:** Treasurer, when will work at Cook shops actually begin?

**MR BARR:** The Minister for Territory and Municipal Services may be in a better position to provide exact information on that, but my understanding is in the coming fiscal year.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** A supplementary question, Ms Porter.

**MS PORTER:** Treasurer, how does the 2014-15 budget invest in local sporting infrastructure in Ginninderra?

**MR BARR:** Canberrans are Australia's healthiest and most active people, because we have the best sport and recreation infrastructure in Australia and we are committed to ensuring that we remain at the pinnacle of participation in sport and recreation. Through quality provision of infrastructure, the government plays its part.

In Ginninderra, in the 2014-15 budget, there is funding for new outdoor fitness equipment at the John Knight memorial park at Lake Ginninderra and there is also further upgrade work to neighbourhood ovals, including Charnwood oval. There is a boost in the budget for the irrigation of our sportsgrounds which will help ensure that ovals in the Ginninderra electorate will continue to be maintained at a high quality.

Ginninderra will also share in the near \$5 million budget boost to the expansion of walking and cycling infrastructure and of course there will be opportunities for privately owned sports infrastructure within the Ginninderra electorate to apply for additional funding for asset maintenance and enhancements under the sport and recreation grants program. This allows community sporting organisations to undertake repairs and maintenance of facilities that they own, manage or lease.

The government continues its investment in community infrastructure that continues to see Canberra as Australia's most active city.

### **Schools—emergency incidents**

**MR DOSZPOT:** My question is directed to the Minister for Education and Training. Minister, earlier today ABC Radio reported that ACT Fire & Rescue had attended Charles Condor Primary School following reports of a gas leak and later in the morning another gas leak at Kingsford Smith School. This follows incidents earlier this year when an unknown electrical fault at Gowrie Primary School resulted in a staff member being hospitalised and the school closed and Birrigai Outdoor School closed due to asbestos being discovered. Minister, what was the cause of this morning's emergency at the two schools and were any students and teachers put at risk?

**MS BURCH:** I do not have the complete details at hand but I can assure you that no teachers or children were at risk in any way, shape or form. I was alerted earlier in the morning about the one down south and then the other school—I think it was connected to a pilot light. It was not necessarily a gas leak, but certainly the team responded.

I am getting all that detail as it comes through. The school is safe. There has been no disruption other than responding and getting the team out. But I can certainly bring some advice as it comes through.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** A supplementary question, Mr Doszpot.

**MR DOSZPOT:** Minister, how frequently and at what level are maintenance audits undertaken in ACT public schools?

**MS BURCH:** The Education and Training Directorate and the school leadership give maintenance a very high priority. There is a maintenance schedule for schools that is managed through the capital works team, about what is routine maintenance. Then, as maintenance is needed in any school—we have 40,000-plus children in our schools—that is responded to. Make no mistake: the safety of our students and teachers is a priority, and we respond as necessary.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Supplementary question, Mr Wall.

**MR WALL:** Minister, what additional resources have been allocated to manage maintenance issues in our older schools, given their ageing profile?

**MS BURCH:** They are considered on an annual basis around priority for our routine forward plan on maintenance. Certainly with our older schools, we have schools from a number of months old right through to 90 years old. With Canberra high, I was there celebrating their 75th year as a school, though not necessarily on site. It is something that we are aware of, and we certainly get the life, as much as we can, out of our schools. Down south, for example, I know that Gilmore has had some upgrades; Calwell high has had some upgrades. We have a very strong maintenance plan, in short, and we support our schools to make sure they have a positive learning environment.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** A supplementary question, Mr Wall.

**MR WALL:** Minister, what safety alarm systems are fitted in ACT schools to detect things such as gas leaks?

**MS BURCH:** They would have alarm systems that meet the Australian standards and that are relevant to the built form in which they are placed.

### **ACT Corrective Services—enterprise agreement**

**MR WALL:** My question is to the Minister for Corrective Services. Minister, an updated enterprise agreement for corrections officers and employees is currently being negotiated. Would you provide an update on how these negotiations are progressing?

**MR RATTENBURY:** Yes, I am happy to provide an update. The negotiations are continuing between the unions involved, particularly the CPSU, and ACT Corrective Services. I think it would be fair to say that the Corrective Services enterprise agreement got off to a later start than some of the other ones. That work is ongoing. My latest briefing was that most of the matters have been resolved but there are a couple of outstanding issues. I hope that we will see that concluded shortly.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** A supplementary question, Mr Wall.

**MR WALL:** Minister, will the updated enterprise agreement include any variation to section U3.1 which relates to AMC arrangements and the needle exchange program at the jail?

**MR RATTENBURY:** That is one of the matters that is still being discussed.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Supplementary question, Mr Smyth.

**MR SMYTH:** Minister, will you, as per the Labor-Greens agreement, continue with the implementation of a needle exchange program at the jail without the agreement of the union as stipulated in the current enterprise arrangements?

**MR RATTENBURY:** Both the Minister for Health, Ms Gallagher, and me, as the Minister for Corrections, remain committed, as a matter of policy, to having a needle and syringe program at the AMC.

The public health benefits have been well outlined, and with the recent marking of World Hepatitis Day the issues around bloodborne viruses were given a strong focus. Certainly at the lunchtime event that I spoke at there was strong community support for an ongoing effort to implement a needle and syringe program.

I think everyone in the Assembly is well aware of the position that some of the corrections officers have taken and that the union has taken. That is a matter where I continue to seek to discuss it with them. I think it is important that we do find a working model. I think it is important that we do not negotiate via the media but that we actually seek to find a workable solution. That is the approach that I am taking. I do hope that we will be able to implement this effective public health policy in a timely manner.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Supplementary question, Mr Smyth.

**MR SMYTH:** Minister, why are you forcing ACT employees to work in an unsafe environment against their wishes?

**MR RATTENBURY:** I am not.

### **Taxation—payroll**

**MR SMYTH:** My question is for the Treasurer. Treasurer, you have been responding to contractors affected by your payroll tax changes with the following words:

This amendment will provide more certainty to Canberra employment agents and to the contractor community with regard to their payroll tax liabilities.

Treasurer, given that your changes to payroll tax will mean that agencies and contractors who have signed contracts will be faced with bearing the cost of payroll tax withheld, how is this giving Canberra contractors and agencies certainty?

**MR BARR:** Under the previous arrangements some companies who had various contractors on their books would find that some attracted the payroll tax and were not able to access the particular concession that had been provided, while others were able to access that particular exemption. This change will ensure that it is a level playing field for everyone and that there is not a disparity where some contractors attract a payroll tax concession and others do not.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Supplementary question, Mr Smyth.

**MR SMYTH:** Minister, when you also said that you have been listening to the industry's concerns, who are you referring to?

**MR BARR:** I have had representations, obviously, from individual contractors and from the organisation Professionals Australia—their ACT branch—as well as discussions being held with the revenue commissioner. He has also held a number of meetings—forums if you like—with organisations that include the peak body nationally for contractors.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** A supplementary question, Mr Doszpot.

**MR DOSZPOT:** Treasurer, how many representations and requests for meetings from contractors have you received and how many meetings have you had?

**MR BARR:** I would not have the exact number. We have had around a hundred letters. Not all of them have requested meetings. Some have said if we wished to discuss their individual circumstances further, then we could contact them. Some contact has occurred. I have met with organisations representing groups of contractors, including Professionals Australia last week. We will continue our engagement with the sector. The revenue commissioner has put out a number of circulars and held a number of information sessions for the relevant players, and we will continue to do so in the transition to the new taxation arrangements.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** A supplementary question, Mr Doszpot.

**MR DOSZPOT:** Treasurer, are you aware there is no industry body representing contractors?

**MR BARR:** A range of bodies have a peak overlap, if you like, of the different areas that are represented. There is no one body; that is true. But organisations like Professionals Australia, who have a number of members who are contractors, have a collective view on issues. There are also organisations at a national level who look after independent contractors, but the nature of this work is that these are a lot of independent people. In some instances they coalesce; in others they do not. Their circumstances vary greatly. Some were able to access the payroll tax concession, others were not. There are a large number of people for whom their competitive disadvantage is removed as a result of this change.

**Schools—primary**

**MS BERRY:** My question is to the Minister for Education and Training. Minister, could you provide an update on school capital works in Belconnen, in particular the expansion of Macgregor Primary School?

**MS BURCH:** I thank Ms Berry for her interest in the capital works in the Belconnen region and particularly in Macgregor primary. I am very pleased to be able to outline the infrastructure works that have been completed at ACT public schools and the ACT government-owned childcare centres in the Belconnen region over the 2013 financial year and the works planned for this financial year.

To support the new development of west Belconnen, the Macgregor Primary School has been expanded and refurbished. The school now has four classes in each year group from kindergarten to year 6, increasing its capacity from 525 students to 700 students. The principal there, Lana Read, does an outstanding job for her students and her community. I understand Ms Berry's interest in Macgregor, because her children go there. I understand the grandchildren of Ms Porter also go to Macgregor. I have visited that and I have visited the new upgraded classrooms. It really is a very wonderful school.

Master planning work for Belconnen High School modernisation project is also well advanced. Stage 1 works involve the demolition of a disused school building, the relocation of the music and arts rooms, and the refurbishment of the administration area. The works will be completed next year. I want to thank and praise the principal there, David McCarthy, for his patience in many ways while this school work happens on his campus. He has done an outstanding job with Belconnen high. They have moved to a uniform model, generated by interest from the students themselves, and it is proving very successful.

Other recent infrastructure works completed at schools in the Belconnen region include a learn to ride facility at Southern Cross Early Childhood School; additional car parks at the Southern Cross Early Childhood School and at Charnwood-Dunlop, Weetangera, Fraser and Macgregor primary schools; new security fences at Lake Ginninderra college; learning support units at Maribyrnong Primary School; and a reinstatement of the natural grass oval at the Hawker primary school. We are also building a new library and two classrooms at Cranleigh School; upgrading and expanding Latham preschool; and building a new lift for the Canberra High School.

All schools now have roof-mounted solar panels which generate an income under the ACT feed-in tariff scheme. Schools use this income to undertake further environmental sustainability initiatives. Under the government's carbon neutral loan fund, energy efficient LED lamps will be installed at Hawker college, the Copland campus, Kaleen high school, and Charnwood-Dunlop, Maribyrnong and Miles Franklin primary schools. A solar heater system will be installed for the Cranleigh School hydrotherapy pool. In conjunction with the ACT government's healthy weight initiative, water refill stations will be installed in Belconnen schools over the next 12 months. And a childcare centre in Charnwood has been upgraded, providing an additional 23 childcare places. Planning is well underway to further upgrade the Totom centre at Kaleen.



**MADAM SPEAKER:** A supplementary question, Ms Berry.

**MS BERRY:** Minister, could you outline which other Belconnen schools have received a school fence and how this helps schools in tracking vandalism and other security issues?

**MS BURCH:** It is recognised that increased security in and around our schools ensures that our facilities are safe for students and there is minimum disruption to our education programs. The decision to install a security fence in a public school is based on evidence of need, including rates of vandalism, the risk of loss or damage to assets, the ease of access or visibility of the school and the proximity to public places.

During 2013-14 security fences were installed in five Belconnen schools—Macgregor Primary School, Maribyrnong, Mount Rogers and Fraser primary schools, and Lake Ginninderra College. Partial or full security fences support other measures, such as electronic security systems, external lighting, security mesh on windows and removing access to climbing points. These measures are effective in reducing the most common breaches of school security, which are break-ins, vandalism, theft and broken windows.

Sixty-five of our 86 public schools now have a partial or full security fence, including 15 of the 23 schools in Belconnen. These enhancements to the schools work. In Belconnen the number of incidents in the first half of this year has been six, which is down from 24 in the same period for the previous year. Three of these six incidents occurred at schools without a security fence. Such a dramatic decline in vandalism in our schools means that more resources are available for our classrooms. The primary purpose of our classrooms is to teach the future generations of Canberra.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** A supplementary question, Dr Bourke.

**DR BOURKE:** Minister, could you update the Assembly on the recent expansion of car parking at schools in Belconnen to ensure school car parks meet the needs of the community and promote a safe school environment?

**MS BURCH:** I do thank Dr Bourke for his interest in car parking. Car parking is a very important aspect of our school communities. The following works, I can advise, have been completed in recent years at Belconnen schools: Southern Cross Early Childhood School stage 1 has got 35 car spaces. Southern Cross Early Childhood School stage 2 is an overflow car park. Charnwood-Dunlop Primary School has 25 car spaces. Weetangera Primary School has a new overflow car park. At Fraser Primary School 16 car spaces and five set down, pick up spaces have been completed. These programs address issues that impact on the safety of pedestrians, the number of car parking spaces, safe school set down, pick up areas and compliance with ACT parking and vehicular access guidelines.

As part of the Macgregor Primary School expansion works, an additional 20 parking spaces will be provided at the school, with the construction of a new car park at the rear of the school and further spaces created in the existing front car park. These works will be completed this year.

Works have also been undertaken by Roads ACT to improve traffic and pedestrian safety around the following schools: Fraser primary, Florey primary and Evatt schools have all had safety improvements, including a rearrangement of set down, pick up areas, relocated pedestrian crossings and on-street set down, pick up spaces. The directorate is also working with Fraser primary on a possible overflow car park on land adjacent to the school and improved on-street parking around Mount Rogers Primary School—all important and valuable additions to the schools in the Belconnen area.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** A supplementary question, Ms Porter.

**MS PORTER:** Minister, could you update the Assembly on how teaching and learning has changed at Melba Copland school as a result of their new virtual learning environment?

**MS BURCH:** I thank Ms Porter for her interest in the Melba Copland School. Students learning in the virtual learning environment at Melba Copland Secondary School are presented with a modern and welcoming classroom environment. The learning commons is a space that becomes a traffic corridor between lessons when students are on the move and is a flexible space catering for seminars of up to 200 students with multiple fixed and portable large-screen displays deployed.

The area can accommodate single classes and cross-classes of learning groups. The virtual learning environment uses high density, wireless-enabled technology with capacity for 250 to 300 students at the peak time of access. This is a place of imagination, fun, discovery and invention; a place where students grow through innovative ideas and concepts as a community of learning.

Students lead learning in this space and provide mentoring to their peers around the curriculum, technical support, social issues, sharing expertise and knowledge. The students' works are displayed in learning areas and galleries across the walls, and it is, therefore, a place of student pride and excellence. I have visited this new learning area and it has been a wonderful enhancement to Melba Copland high.

The teaching and support staff have embraced the virtual learning environment with the ability it brings for them for team teaching and cross-class and cross-teacher collaboration, and I am told that the teacher morale and professional practice is at an all-time high as a result of this investment. The principal, Michael Battenally, has done an outstanding job with his students and the community, and I am sure he is producing excellent academics and future citizens of Canberra.

### **ACTION bus service—MyWay card information**

**MR COE:** My question is to the minister for police. It has been recently reported that in the past four years on 27 occasions ACT police have requested information on the private travel of bus commuters. Data on individual travel has been provided on 16 occasions. In 2011, the opposition was advised after the question was taken on notice

that 137 ACT government staff have access to the MyWay ticketing system SmarTrack. Minister, when is appropriate for police to obtain data from the ACTION MyWay database?

**MR CORBELL:** I thank Mr Coe for the question. Any access to data held by the ACT government, whether it is data held in the MyWay system or in any other part of government, can only be provided and accessed consistent with the application of both the Australian privacy principles and the new territory privacy principles, which the Assembly recently enacted through our own privacy law.

I am confident that any steps taken by ACT Policing are consistent with the application of the territory privacy principles which are, in effect, the same as the privacy principles applied under Australian privacy law.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** A supplementary question, Mr Coe.

**MR COE:** Minister, this question is for you or for the TAMS minister: who within ACTION makes the decision about whether to grant the police this data request?

**MR RATTENBURY:** I am happy to take that question from Mr Coe. I will obtain that precise position description for him and provide it on notice.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Supplementary question, Mrs Jones.

**MRS JONES:** I ask the appropriate minister: does ACTION have a policy about access to MyWay data or is the government's general privacy policy governing the issue?

**MR CORBELL:** Access to data must be lawful and it is lawful if it complies with the relevant privacy principles set out in privacy law. That is the obligation on the part of data holders. Agencies of government that hold data and information can make it available if it is consistent with the principles of privacy law, whether that is territory law or commonwealth law.

In relation to the use of this data by police, it is appropriate that police access data for the purposes of criminal investigations if they do so consistent with privacy law and privacy principles. That is the legal position in relation to the access of any data held by the ACT government when it comes to investigations associated with criminal or suspected criminal matters.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** A supplementary question, Mrs Jones.

**MRS JONES:** Minister, how do law-abiding commuters know that their travel is not being inappropriately monitored and are there still 137 ACT government staff having access to the database?

**MR CORBELL:** In relation to the arrangements in terms of the administration of this data by ACTION, I will defer to my colleague the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services. But in relation to the reassurances that can be provided to

commuters, earlier this year this Assembly debated a new piece of legislation that established for the first time an ACT-specific privacy law that provided for the protection of data and other personally identifying information held by the ACT government. That would include data held by ACTION associated with the use of the MyWay transit card system.

Commuters can be reassured that access to any data, whether it is MyWay data or any other data, can only occur if it is consistent with ACT privacy law. ACT privacy law is the same as commonwealth privacy law and the Australian privacy principles. We have imported commonwealth law into our own statute book and we now have a comprehensive suite of territory privacy principles that guide decisions as to whether or not access to data should be granted.

It is the case that a request by police for the purposes of a criminal investigation is a legitimate reason to access data held by the ACT government. Obviously those individual circumstances will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, consistent with the territory Privacy Act and the territory privacy principles that apply in that act.

### **Transport—park-and-ride and bike-and-ride facilities**

**MS PORTER:** My question is to the Minister for Planning: I refer to the government's transport for Canberra policy along with active travel. What bike-and-ride and park-and-ride facilities are planned for or have recently begun construction in my electorate of Ginninderra, and can you provide examples of where park-and-ride and bike-and-ride systems have been used and what benefits have they delivered?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** I thank Ms Porter for her question. The 2010-11 budget allocated more than \$4 million over four years to expand the network of park-and-ride and bike-and-ride facilities across the territory, with the focus on existing rapid and frequent bus services. In Ginninderra construction of a park and ride at Moyes Crescent in Kippax was completed at the end of 2013. Another park and ride in College Street, Bruce, has recently been completed. These facilities allow people living in the north of Canberra to drive part of their journey before completing their commute via public transport.

This system, along with being convenient, greatly reduces congestion on our roads by encouraging people to drive their cars less and to use public transport alternatives. In addition to these two park-and-ride facilities in Belconnen, an additional facility was completed on Purdue Street in Belconnen in 2011. These park and rides, along with those on Flemington Road and the Cotter Road—Molonglo and north Weston—are excellent examples of transport planning initiatives in the ACT.

In relation to bike-and-ride facilities, a bike cage has been constructed at the Belconnen community station and another is under construction at the Kippax Centre. These facilities were recommended by a feasibility study conducted by the Environment and Planning Directorate in line with the government's transport for Canberra policy, which is aimed at improving transport options for all Canberrans. The patronage of bike cages by commuters depends on the season, but the government is pleased to see the facilities growing in popularity.

In response to the second part of the question, bike-and-ride facilities have long been a large part of transport infrastructure planning in many countries across the world. Two excellent examples of this are in Amsterdam in the Netherlands and Brussels in Belgium. Amsterdam central railway station boasts a three-storey bike parking facility. This allows people from central Amsterdam to park their bikes at the station to go to work in other parts of the city. Sixty per cent of trips within central Amsterdam are made by bike and 38 per cent of all trips within greater Amsterdam are completed by bike. Other stations around the Netherlands also boast large secure bike parking stations.

These bike parking stations, though vastly bigger than the ones here in the ACT, are based on the same principle—for a low cost you can securely park your bike and then continue on to your destination.

Brussels combines buses, trams, trains, and the metro system to form a bike-and-ride system. It is possible to take bicycles on all forms of public transport in Brussels. Interestingly, a relatively new building regulation in Brussels also stipulates that new or renovated office buildings must have at least one bike place per 200 square metres of office space. This is a different approach to facilitating active travel and bike-and-ride systems than the approach in the ACT, but they are great examples of the popularity and acceptance of combining active travel and public transport options.

In the future I certainly hope we can take the learnings of successful active travel experience from cities across the world to improve bike-and-ride and park-and-ride facilities across our community.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** A supplementary question, Ms Porter.

**MS PORTER:** Minister, how do bike-and-ride facilities help the government deliver its active travel objectives?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** Thank you, Ms Porter, for the supplementary question. Active travel is defined as any travel which involves some physical activity such as cycling or walking. It is important that government promotes active travel in a growing city like Canberra, due to its large geographical area. With the distance from north to south being approximately 40k, most people in Canberra need to commute in many directions in order to get to their destination. A particularly common route is from the outer suburbs into the city where many workplaces, we know, are situated.

Like in most cities around the world, managing congestion is one of the main challenges faced by town planners as they try to meet the needs of those who live there. Providing active travel options has the added benefit of promoting healthy living as well as reducing the stress on health systems. Active travel helps both of these objectives.

For residents living in the inner suburbs of Canberra, it is quite attainable to ride or walk the full distance to work. This is facilitated by bike paths and bike lanes along the way. For those who live further out, for example in Higgins, a five-kilometre bike

ride combined with a bus connection at the Cohen Street bus station in Belconnen presents an easier combination of active travel and public transport, as opposed to a 16-kilometre bike ride that would present, in itself, quite a difficult commute.

The bike cages and lockers at bike-and-ride sites allow people to ride to the sites and secure their bikes without fear of theft. That aids the combination of active travel and public transport.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** A supplementary question, Ms Berry.

**MS BERRY:** Minister, what are the broader benefits of promoting active travel throughout the community? The last question talked about travel objectives; this is about the broader community.

**MR GENTLEMAN:** I thank Ms Berry for her supplementary. Cost-benefit assessments have determined that 80 per cent of the benefits of active travel are health related. Active travel is therefore recognised as an important component of the government's healthy weight initiative—towards zero growth, which seeks to stem the increase in the proportion of the community that is overweight or obese. We talked about that yesterday.

The promotion of active travel through the incorporation of bike paths, bus routes and bike-and-ride facilities presents many benefits to Canberrans. Physical inactivity is a major driver of the increase in obesity, as stated by the Moving People 2013 Task Force, which was set up by various health and industry groups. The rate of overweight and obese Australians has increased from 56 per cent in 1995 to 63 per cent as of 2013. This includes three-quarters of Australians aged between 65 and 74.

Including active travel in your daily commute to work or school can have great health benefits. The Heart Foundation recommends that adults include at least 30 minutes of physical activity into their routines each day. That helps to prevent heart disease, stroke, diabetes and also reduces the risk of injury and promotes mental wellbeing.

**Mr Hanson:** Mental wellbeing as a planning minister?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** It does, yes. The support of active travel through the use of bike-and-ride facilities allows people to incorporate a healthy amount of exercise into their day while being able to also incorporate public transport into their commute. The promotion of active travel through bike-and-ride facilities also provides the benefit of reducing congestion on our roads, as I mentioned in my previous answer. It also reduces pressure on parking facilities in the city and town centres.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Supplementary question, Mr Wall.

**MR WALL:** Minister, when will work on park-and-ride in your suburb, Calwell, be completed, such as the installation of signage and bus shelters?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** I thank Mr Wall for his question. I think the park-and-ride facility at Calwell has been a great success. It was very well pushed by the community

council and, indeed, by those of us interested in improving the site at Calwell. As to the details of the finalisation of signage, I know that all the markings are in place but I will contact my colleague in TAMS and find out when that signage will be completed.

**Mr Barr:** Madam Speaker, I ask that all further questions be placed on the notice paper.

### **Supplementary answers to questions without notice**

#### **Schools—emergency incidents**

**MS BURCH:** I refer to the question from Mr Doszpot about gas leaks, gas leaks occurred this morning at Charles Conder and Kingsford Smith. Charles Conder was evacuated while the gas was isolated, and the school returned to classrooms at around 10.20. The Kingsford Smith School was not evacuated at all. The fire brigade attended both schools to manage the incidents; they ventilated the affected spaces and undertook testing for clearing for the spaces to be occupied. ACT WorkSafe has been notified of both incidents.

There was no breakage in the gas lines at either school. At Charles Conder the fault occurred because the controller, or solenoid, failed. The heating system in the hall was turned off, and we are awaiting parts to repair two units. However, heating to the learning, teaching and administrative spaces is continuing. Advice from the contractor is that the fault is common in a particular model, but we have also checked the other pilot lights in the other heating systems.

At Kingsford Smith, it appeared to be operator error. The heating to the learning and teaching spaces is continuing.

The HVAC contractors have been instructed to check all spaces at both schools, and the directorate has instructed contractors to identify the types of controllers installed at all our schools and government-owned childcare centres to check if they are the same as those at Charles Conder and, where necessary, to make the necessary replacements.

#### **Territory and Municipal Services—vandalism of depots**

**MR RATTENBURY:** Earlier I was asked about delays to cleaning in southern parts of Canberra. I can confirm that work was affected for about a week. Woden interchange and the inner south shopping centres were the areas predominantly affected. They were cleaned to a bare minimum for that period, and the backlog of work has now been completed.

### **Legislation program—spring 2014**

#### **Paper and statement by minister**

**MR BARR** (Molonglo—Deputy Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development, Minister for Housing and Minister for Tourism and Events): On behalf of the Chief Minister, for the information of members, I present the following paper:

Legislation Program—Spring 2014—Key themes and government priority legislation items, dated 7 August 2014.

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

Leave granted.

**MR BARR:** Madam Speaker, I am pleased to outline this afternoon some of the key aspects of the government's legislative agenda for the spring 2014 sittings of the Assembly. As we approach the halfway mark of this parliamentary term, the government is continuing with a legislative program that delivers on the commitments we have made to the people of the ACT. It builds on the program of policy and legislative reform that has occurred through the first half of 2014 and maintains the clear focus of the government on core Labor principles of fairness, equality and inclusion.

During this sitting the government will also give legislative effect to key measures to support our economy and the jobs of Canberrans amid challenging economic conditions, central to these priorities are red tape reduction and regulatory reform and the drive to client-focused and responsive ACT government machinery.

Underpinning the government's work in this area is a dedicated regulatory reform team in the new Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate to coordinate this work across agencies. I advise the Assembly that a broad range of initiatives are being pursued in order to deliver tangible benefits to the community.

Firstly, as part of the regulation reform initiative, the government will be introducing a new ACT Public Service Bill. The bill will be a high level, principles-based piece of legislation that sets out public service powers. Once enacted, it will replace the Public Sector Management Act 1994. The bill will reduce the current complexity and red tape in the ACT public service employment framework. It will also bring to the ACT a more modern approach to public sector legislation, as we have seen in changes to the commonwealth public sector legislation.

Secondly, the government will introduce further legislation with practical measures to reduce red tape in different parts of the ACT economy. This legislation includes the Gaming Machine (Reform) Amendment Bill 2014, facilitating gaming machine reforms which support the ongoing viability of the club sector and implement many of the commitments in the inaugural memorandum of understanding signed by the ACT government and ClubsACT. In addition, the Veterinary Surgeons Bill 2014, repealing the Health Professionals Act 2004, will create a new act to manage veterinary surgeons practicing in the ACT, including providing the statutory mechanisms for registration, professional conduct standards and a disciplinary scheme.

The ACT economy has shown significant resilience since the severe cuts announced in May's commonwealth budget, and the territory government will continue to take steps where we can to support local businesses and jobs. It was pleasing to see today the labour force figures showing continued growth in employment in the ACT.



Alongside our strong economic program the government will use the spring sittings to proceed with important changes to the territory's legal framework, legislating to strengthen community safety in different situations including during bushfires, at major events and in the home.

In relation to bushfires, recommendations flowing from the ACT Auditor-General's performance report into bushfire preparedness in 2013 will result in amendments being made to the Emergencies Act 2004. A number of amendments will be sought to ensure the safety of Canberrans who might find themselves in emergency situations including: allowances for the Director-General of the Education and Training Directorate to close non-government schools in emergency situations; harmonisation of legislative time frames associated with bushfire operational planning for rural leaseholders in the ACT; clarification of the ability of chief officers to close a private or public premise, such as a public or private school, health facility, place of work or other facility, in order to assist in the management of emergencies; a new offence regarding the discarding of lighted cigarettes, matches or incandescent material; and the expansion of the ESA Commissioner's functions to "oversee and coordinate" as well as "participate" in strategic and operational planning for emergencies.

Given the major sporting events coming to Canberra in 2015 as we host matches in both the Asian football cup and the cricket world cup as well as the big bash final and other regular sporting fixtures, the Major Events Bill 2014 is a timely piece of legislation. It seeks to improve the legislation relating to the security, advertising and ticket protections for major sporting events. Once enacted, it will help ensure the physical safety of patrons by allowing measures for approved officers to conduct scanning and ordinary searches, allow tighter restrictions regarding re-entry of patrons who have been ejected and also prohibiting pitch invasions at specific sporting events. The bill will also include new protections for ticket purchasers.

In the home, the government will continue to seek improvements to the safety of our community through implementing recommendations made in the *Violence Against Women and Children Strategy 2011-2017, Our Responsibility: Ending Violence Against Women and Children*. The Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 will take important steps in protecting the right to privacy and a number of other rights under the Human Rights Act.

The government will also introduce the Crimes (Sentencing) Amendment Bill 2014 to repeal periodic detention as a sentencing option in the ACT, continuing to ensure that Canberrans enjoy the benefits of living in a community that is safe, socially inclusive and respectful of human rights. In order to manage an effective transition, the repeal of periodic detention will occur in two stages.

The government will also move to strengthen the territory's legal architecture through improvements to the Supreme Court, Magistrates Court, and ACAT-related legislation via the Courts Legislation Amendment Bill 2014. These amendments have been suggested by justice system stakeholders including the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Director of Public Prosecutions, and the Victims of Crime Commissioner. The bill will create improvements to the court system and access to justice by facilitating more efficient and fairer administration in the courts.

This suite of bills supports a foundation belief of the government and a key objective of the Canberra plan, to ensure that all Canberrans enjoy the benefits of living in a community that is safe, socially inclusive and respectful of human rights, that all Canberrans are able to fully participate in community life, and that the most vulnerable in our community are respected and supported.

Under the government's commitment to environmental sustainability, the spring sittings will see important steps taken on delivering a sustainable future for the citizens of Canberra. The *Canberra Plan: towards our second century*, identifies sustainability as a strategic priority for the ACT government. The protection of the ACT's environment is key to our sustainability policy. Therefore, the government is developing a contemporary regulatory framework which prevents environmental degradation and supports the ACT's sustainable future program.

The government is also committed to making improvements identified in the review of the Environmental Protection Act 1997 and the Environment Protection Regulation 2005. The review identified the need for amendments to ensure the legislation remains effective and contemporary in the face of community growth, societal attitudes, environmental practices and changes within environmental science and technology.

The Environment Protection Amendment Bill 2014 will address matters such as broadening the definition of "environmental harm" to include potential harm as well as actual harm and the introduction of civil penalties and enforceable undertakings to expand the regulatory tools available to the Environment Protection Authority. These changes, alongside the streamlining of processes and the removal of green tape are fundamental to contemporising the legislation and its operation in a number of other jurisdictions.

Alongside this, amendments to the Nature Conservation Bill 2014 will continue to build on the strong framework that the 1980 act created by improving alignment of ACT law with those of other jurisdictions, providing additional accountability and transparency and facilitating flexible approaches to management of species and ecosystems. The protection and management of biodiversity is fundamental to the achievement of a sustainable city.

This outline gives just a snapshot of the government's extensive legislative and policy reform program. Across all portfolios, the government is undertaking further analysis and policy development, and it is pleasing to give legislative effect to this work. Ultimately, the new bills and amendments we will introduce are aimed at direct improvements in the workings of government, prosperity of our city, growth in our economy and the quality of life in our community.

I thank my ministerial colleagues and the Chief Minister for their leadership and members for their engagement across these numerous priorities. I look forward to the Assembly debating these important changes for Canberra.

## **Committee reports—government responses**

### **Papers and statement by minister**

**MR BARR** (Molonglo—Deputy Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development, Minister for Housing and Minister for Tourism and Events): On behalf of the Chief Minister and for the information of members, I present the following papers:

Education, Training and Youth Affairs—Standing Committee—Report 2—*Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2012-2013*—Government response.

Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services—Standing Committee—Report 3—*Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2012-2013*—Government response.

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee—Report 2—*Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2012-2013*—Government response.

Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services—Standing Committee—Report 4—*Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2012-2013*—Government response.

Public Accounts—Standing Committee—Report 4—*Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2012-2013*—Government response.

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

Leave granted.

**MR BARR:** I am very pleased to present the government's responses to all five standing committee reports on the 2012-2013 annual and financial reports of ACT government agencies. As standing committee reports generally cover more than one portfolio and in some cases the issues raised in the reports have cross-directorate implications, I am tabling on behalf of the Chief Minister the responses to all five standing committee reports together on behalf of all ministers in the government.

Annual and financial reports are prepared by agencies in accordance with the Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004, the Financial Management Act 1996 and the annual report directions. In this regard, the government seeks to ensure that annual and financial reports are continually updated to reflect best practice and full accountability.

The standing committees have made a combined total of 75 recommendations. The government has agreed in full, in principle or in part to 46 of these, has noted 25 and not agreed with four recommendations. I commend the government's responses to the Assembly.

## **Papers**

**Mr Barr**, on behalf of the Minister for Health, presented the following papers:

Public Health Act, pursuant to subsection 10(3)—ACT Chief Health Officer's Report 2014, dated 28 May 2014.

Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act, pursuant to section 13—Annual Report 2012-2013—Health Directorate—Corrigendum, dated August 2014.

## **Environment—former Koppers site**

### **Paper and statement by minister**

**MR CORBELL** (Molonglo—Attorney-General, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Environment and Minister for Capital Metro): For the information of members, I present the following paper:

Groundwater Investigation—Stage 1 Development Area—Monaro Highway, Hume, ACT—Independent analysis of the former Koppers site and surrounding area, dated 24 July 2014, prepared by Coffey Environments Australia Pty Ltd for the Land Development Agency, pursuant to the resolution of the Assembly of 9 April 2014, as amended 3 June 2014, concerning the management of environmental reporting.

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

Leave granted.

**MR CORBELL:** I am pleased to table today the independent analysis of the former Koppers site and surrounding area. I am further pleased to report to members that the independent analysis has confirmed the previous scientific findings and conclusions. In fact, the independent experts have concluded that, given their analysis:

... no further investigation or ongoing monitoring of groundwater is necessary for the surrounding area.

Specifically, the findings of the independent review were:

- Groundwater abstraction in the area is regulated by ACT EPA under Water Resources Act 2007. Appropriate licence conditions can ensure potential risks associated with direct contact and changes in hydrological conditions can be managed.
- Based on total dissolved solid concentrations and observed slow and inconsistent recoveries, groundwater is considered an unsuitable resource for beneficial use. Thus property owners are unlikely to seek licences for its use.
- Very low concentrations of chromium 6 were identified in groundwater within fractured rock 11.6m below ground surface, therefore direct contact is unlikely.
- Chromium 6 concentrations of groundwater in fractured rock within former Koppers site area are decreasing and further expansion of the plume is considered unlikely. Chromium 6 concentrations of groundwater in shallow ephemeral soil aquifer within former Koppers site are also decreasing and lack of detection in wells down gradient of source area (except at one location which was at limit of detection).
- Distance to the closest surface water, and the depth of the water table in the rock aquifer, no discharge of Chromium 6 groundwater to surface water in the vicinity of the former Koppers site is expected.

The government is strongly committed to protecting our environment. The licensing of activities and remediation of sites which have the potential to cause harm to both human health and the environment is a key component of the ACT's environment protection legislation. That legislation provides the framework for the protection of our environment from activities that have the potential to cause harm.

One of the key objectives of the legislation under the nationally recognised polluter-pays principle is that the assessment, including any testing and remediation of the site, is the responsibility of the polluter in the first instance, and the land owner in the second. The act requires that certain activities are subject to formal regulation or licensing by the EPA.

In relation to the regulation of the Koppers site, it was licensed by the commonwealth from 1983 when it commenced operations until the territory took responsibility for regulation in 1989 under the then commonwealth water pollution ordinance. Groundwater monitoring was not a requirement of the commonwealth's licensing of the facility.

Following self-government, the ACT initially regulated the site under the Water Pollution Act 1984 which was administered by the then ACT Pollution Control Authority. In line with contemporary environmental practice at the time, groundwater monitoring was instigated as a condition of the ACT regulation of the site following the introduction of the Environment Protection Act 1997 and the creation of the EPA.

The Koppers site was required, through the conditions of the ACT licence, to manage all surface water within the site to ensure there were no unlawful discharges from the site. Controlled discharges from the site were not permitted without Koppers first sampling the discharge water and obtaining the approval of the EPA. During the ACT's licensing of the site, there were no approved discharges from the site. Test results received by the government until the plant closed in 2005 indicated there were no impacts of concern in the surface water dams used to manage water within the site, in soils where treated logs were stored or in groundwater at the two licensed bores at the down gradient boundary of the site.

While there were some lapses in the information supplied to the EPA following the plant's closure, this did not fundamentally change the fact that there were no significant issues from the monitoring of the facility's operation. The provision of monitoring information was highlighted as an enforcement issue requiring attention by the EPA. As the act was then structured, the EPA needed to demonstrate that environmental harm had been caused by the non-compliance and that this action would need to be pursued through the courts.

The EPA recognised that this was an enforcement restriction and in 2005 introduced a strict liability offence for breaches of conditions of an environmental authorisation. This provided the EPA with an appropriate tool to deal with matters such as those which had occurred during the regulation of the Koppers facility. It has proven a useful mechanism since its introduction and has been utilised to educate activity managers. The penalty ranges from \$1,000 for an individual to \$5,000 for a corporation and has proven to provide sufficient incentive to ensure compliance.

The EPA regulates in excess of 286 environmental authorisations, and since 2005 this mechanism has been effective. The proposed amendments to the act will further improve the EPA's abilities in this regard, especially in relation to the current issue pertaining to the need to demonstrate the occurrence of actual environmental harm before action can be taken.

In respect of the amendments to the ACT's Environment Protection Act, the proposals being considered by the government would modernise the objects of the act by broadening the definition "environmental harm" to include "likely to cause harm to the environment", allowing the act to operate in a more proactive manner. The proposals will additionally capture activities that contribute to gradual deterioration of the environment and allow the EPA to take appropriate regulatory action by providing an element that objectively assesses the seriousness of the offence. The proposed changes would align our legislation with contemporary practices in other jurisdictions and would, again, place the ACT at the forefront of environment protection.

Turning to the issues of contamination at the Koppers site itself and how these matters are regulated in the ACT, following the decommissioning of the site in 2005 detailed independent soil and groundwater assessments were undertaken. In relation to groundwater, in addition to the two off-site licensing wells an additional 33 monitoring wells were installed. The site was assessed, remediated and independently audited in accordance with the ACT EPA's contaminated sites environment protection policy and the development conditions related to the redevelopment of the site.

The contaminated sites policy state environment protection policy was introduced with the contaminated land provisions in the Environment Protection Act in 1999 and detailed the approach for managing contaminated land in the ACT. The legislation introduced the use of independent, EPA-approved auditors to provide a more robust and independent process for contaminated sites management. The legislation and policies for managing contaminated sites in the ACT have been updated regularly in accordance with national and interstate policy development and are based on the New South Wales legislation and national and international best practice.

The use of accredited independent audits was first utilised by the ACT and Victoria in the 1980s and is now in place across Australia. The use of independent auditors is legislated in the EPA Act, with an approved auditor in the ACT being one that is accredited as an auditor by the New South Wales or Victorian EPA. To maintain their accreditation in their respective states, independent auditors are reviewed and audited by the relevant state EPA under a comprehensive accreditation scheme.

Furthermore, the ACT EPA also reviews all contaminated land audits undertaken in the ACT and participates in the state accreditation and review process for auditors. The use of the independent auditor process has proven to be robust and effective and has been used in the ACT since the 1980s, addressing both privately held and government sites, including the former sheep dip remediation program, the transfer of land from the commonwealth to the ACT and major brownfield developments such as the redevelopment of the Kingston foreshore.

Assessment at the Koppers site was undertaken from 2005 to 2007 by Koppers expert environmental consultants, ERM. The soil, following remedial works at the site, was found suitable for the proposed and permitted land uses under the lease issued for the site. These findings were supported by the independent EPA-approved auditor and detailed in the site audit report provided to the EPA in 2007.

Isolated or perched groundwater contamination was found only in the vicinity of the demolished plant. The plant itself was located in the upper centre of the site, some distance from the site boundary. The detailed groundwater assessment utilising the 33 wells in place indicated that this perched groundwater was not connected to the underlying deeper groundwater aquifer. The distance between the isolated plume extent and the down gradient property boundary is approximately 150 metres.

Based on these investigations by the suitably qualified environmental consultant, a high degree of scientific confidence was provided that off-site migration of polluted water was not an issue. This high degree of scientific confidence was achieved by the combination of the nature of the perched aquifer and subterranean soils, the near zero rate of water movement in the perched zone and other natural processes such as oxidation and adsorption. This, combined with the lack of known or anticipated users of groundwater from the perched zone, precluded its consideration as a potential harmful exposure pathway.

Whilst acknowledging the lack of progress in remediating the remaining contamination of isolated groundwater at the site, it was on the basis of this higher degree of scientific evidence, confirmed by the independent auditor, that the EPA did not intervene while a court case was in progress about which of the property owners, past or present, was responsible for remediation on the site, because there was no foreseeable or likely risk to human health or the environment, based on the available information.

The sale of the site, specifically the responsibility for the remediation of the remaining groundwater contamination from the Koppers operations, was subject to Supreme Court proceedings from 2007 to late 2013. In 2013, the Supreme Court found in favour of Koppers, confirming that Canberra Hire, the new owner, is now responsible for the remaining remediation of the site.

Koppers and Canberra Hire have both confirmed this in writing to the EPA and Canberra Hire has approached the original consultants, ERM, to undertake further works. Those works will continue to be audited by an EPA-approved independent auditor. The EPA will work closely with the owners and independent auditor to ensure that the remaining groundwater contamination is actively managed and cleaned up to the required standards.

With the improvements to the act now under consideration, I believe the government has the appropriate regulatory framework and policies in place to address both the management of existing activities and the remediation of these legacy sites. The government has been proactive in implementing and reviewing its policies and its legislative framework to ensure that our laws remain contemporary and cognisant of community expectations.

Remediation of legacy sites, such as the Koppers site, is complex and can take time. However, these issues must be properly addressed by suitably qualified professionals through a national, recognised, robust regulatory and policy framework.

I look forward to advancing improvements to the act which are currently under the government's consideration. I have every confidence that the EPA will continue to work to serve and protect the territory's environment. I commend the paper to the Assembly.

## **Government and non-government schools education councils—advices**

### **Papers and statement by minister**

**MS BURCH** (Brindabella—Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Disability, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Minister for Racing and Gaming, Minister for Women and Minister for the Arts): For the information of members, I present the following papers:

Education Act—

Pursuant to section 66A—Government Schools Education Council—Creation of an ACT School Education Advisory Council—Advice, dated August 2014.

Pursuant to section 118A—Non-Government Schools Education Council—Creation of an ACT School Education Advisory Council—Advice, dated August 2014.

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

Leave granted.

**MS BURCH:** As I have said before, I see myself as minister for all ACT schools, while recognising the great benefit that public education gives to our community. I believe it is timely that we consider the current advisory council arrangements on education matters to ensure that as a government we continue to get the best high-level and strategic advice.

Accordingly, in May of this year I invited my two education advisory councils, GSEC and NGSEC, to consider a paper on the creation of an ACT school education advisory council. The paper provided information about changing the education landscape and proposals around membership, expertise and areas of focus related to school education.

Education policy and practice have changed significantly nationally and locally over the past decade. While the national policy approach to education is still uncertain, it is plain that here in the ACT we should seek to have alignment in our approach to education policy. It is recognised that we are doing well; we have some of the best schools in the country. But we want to do better. We are the knowledge capital and we want to build on this position, with even better schools for Canberra families, be they public or non-government schools.



I am keen to have the benefit of cross-sectoral discussions on topics that do not just impact on one school or one system. Already in my time as education minister I have seen great cross-sectoral discussions on curriculum, teacher training and professionalism, and parental engagement. I want to see more of these discussions and to provide a forum to allow them to take place. I would like to see more alignment and cohesion in the provision of school education across the three sectors, because we can truly maximise the outcomes for students when all schools work together. While we must continue to respect the differences between schools and systems and value the diversity and the choice that we offer families, I would like to ensure that the boundaries between them do not limit our thinking.

Both GSEC and NGSEC have provided me with frank and thoughtful advice on the position paper. I want to thank both councils for their consideration. As required under the Education Act, I have tabled their advice.

## **Planning and Development Act 2007—variation No 318 to the territory plan**

### **Papers and statement by minister**

**MR GENTLEMAN** (Brindabella—Minister for Planning, Minister for Community Services, Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations, Minister for Children and Young People and Minister for Ageing): For the information of members, I present the following papers:

Planning and Development Act, pursuant to subsection 79(1)—Variation No. 318 to the Territory Plan—Tuggeranong Town Centre—Zone changes—Amendment to the Greenway precinct map and code—Amendment to the parking and vehicular access general code, together with background papers, a copy of the summaries and reports, and a copy of any direction or report required.

In accordance with the provisions of the act, this variation is presented with the background papers and copies of the summaries and reports.

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

Leave granted.

**MR GENTLEMAN:** Today I am tabling draft variation 318 in my capacity as Minister for Planning. I would like to take an opportunity to thank my colleague Simon Corbell MLA for getting this variation to the territory plan to this point. I fully support the outcomes it will achieve for the Tuggeranong town centre and for the broader Tuggeranong community.

Variation 318 to the territory plan is based on a sound policy platform. It proposes to implement the key elements of the Tuggeranong town centre master plan. The master planning process was conducted over several years and included four separate rounds of public consultation between November 2010 and February 2012. The final

Tuggeranong town centre master plan was endorsed by the ACT government in September 2012. The master plan presents a long-term strategy for the revitalisation and redevelopment of the Tuggeranong town centre. Variation 318 is the first step in implementing the master plan. It is intended to stimulate redevelopment in the priority areas identified in the master plan.

Draft variation 318 was released for public comment between December 2013 and February 2014 and attracted 13 public submissions. The main issues related to a loss of urban open space on the eastern side of the lake, building heights, proposed reductions of car parking rates for offices, development and treatment of the foreshore areas, and the built form and character. While relatively few public submissions were received, they varied widely in the issues they raised. Some submissions suggested the building heights may be too high; others indicated they were not high enough.

A report on consultation was prepared by the Environment and Planning Directorate responding to the issues raised in the submissions. That report sought to balance the range of views presented in the public submissions. A minor revision was made to the building height provisions for block 5 section 13 Greenway. I am satisfied that the issues raised in the public submissions have been adequately addressed through the report on consultation and in the revisions made to variation 318.

The draft variation was not referred to the standing committee, for three main reasons. Relatively few issues were raised in the submissions, and the nature and extent of those issues varied widely. Both the master plan and draft variation were subject to extensive public consultation over a number of years. And feedback from public presentations and the drop-in session held at the Hyperdome indicate a general awareness in the community about the need to stimulate redevelopment in the town centre.

I believe the time is right to stimulate growth and redevelopment in the Tuggeranong town centre. Variation 318 achieves this. It achieves it in a balanced way that protects the character and amenity of the town centre. I now have tabled approved variation 318 to the territory plan.

## **Papers**

**Mr Gentleman** presented the following papers:

Planning and Development Act, pursuant to subsection 242(2)—Schedule—  
Leases granted for the period 1 April to 30 June 2014.

## **Environment—carbon tax**

### **Discussion of matter of public importance**

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

The cost of living benefits on the ACT as a result of removing the carbon tax.

**MR HANSON** (Molonglo—Leader of the Opposition) (4.00): As the leader of the Canberra Liberals, I am very proud to speak on this matter of public importance today. The Canberra Liberals are the party that are focused on serving the needs and aspirations of hard-working Canberrans. And what more fundamental role can this Assembly take than to focus on keeping down the cost of living for every Canberran in every suburb of Canberra? We are delighted to see that, finally, the regressive Labor Gillard-Rudd tax has been repealed and that electricity and gas prices for all Canberrans have fallen.

The federal Liberal Party, as you know, Mr Assistant Speaker, went to the last election with a clear mandate to scrap the carbon tax and, in turn, reduce costs for businesses and households, to boost jobs and manufacturing and to restore Australia's international competitiveness. And it is the Liberals who stand up for reducing the cost of living. Yesterday's headlines say it all, for all Canberra household budgets. From ABC News Online on Wednesday, 6 August 2014, the headline reads, "Electricity, gas prices reduced in Canberra after carbon tax repealed." Let me quote in detail from an article in yesterday's *Canberra Times* headed "Average ACT energy bills to drop by more than \$300 a year after carbon price repeal":

ACT residents will be more than \$300 a year better off after the repeal of the carbon price, as ActewAGL announces its new post-repeal energy prices for the territory.

An ActewAGL spokesman said as a result of the Gillard government's carbon price being repealed in July, electricity prices in the ACT would drop by about two cents per kilowatt and gas prices would fall by approximately \$2 per gigajoule.

Overall, he said average Canberra utility prices were estimated to drop \$222 a year for electricity users and \$98 a year for those connected to natural gas, about \$320 annually in total.

**Mr Barr:** Not the \$550 that the Prime Minister promised.

**MR HANSON:** We will get to that, Mr Barr. Thank you for that interjection. I look forward to illuminating you on the full \$550, which we will come to. You will enjoy it. The article continued:

He said the prices would come into effect for all electricity bills from August 1, 2014 and be backdated to the beginning of July, meaning customers will no longer pay the carbon price from July 1.

That is most welcome, I think. The article continued:

"Customers who have already paid their bill will receive a credit for the carbon amount which will appear in their next bill," the spokesman said.

"Customers who receive their bills after August 1 2014 will only see the carbon exclusive prices on their bills,"

Gas prices in the ACT will change from September 2014 and also be backdated to July.

The ActewAGL data suggests the drop in electricity and gas prices has been larger for Canberrans than was originally predicted by the Abbott government before the carbon price repeal.

That is most welcome. But to provide Mr Barr with the answer to his question, that is only the start of the savings. Electricity and gas prices were only one part of the imposition placed on every Canberra household by the regressive Labor tax. Let me give you another quote, Mr Assistant Speaker. On 7 August Sarah Ferguson, on ABC TV, asked the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission—the ACCC—chairman, Rod Sims, whether the government got it right when they said household savings would be \$550 a year. Let me now quote from the chair of the ACCC, who I am sure Mr Barr would not want to criticise—

**Mr Barr:** I can criticise him if I want. Let's see what you—

**MR HANSON:** We will wait. We will see if Mr Barr wants to stand up and say how he knows better than the chair of the ACCC, which seems to be the basis of his interjections here today. Let us see what Rod Sims said:

Yes, I think they did.

They did get it right—\$550. He continued:

I think you can see half that amount in things you can touch and feel like energy prices, a range of other prices, council rates and things like that.

Certainly, we know all about council rates in this town, don't we, Mr Barr? He continued:

The rest of it will come through in little bits off a whole range of goods that you buy. So I think \$550 is a good number.

Given that we know that the savings are bigger here in Canberra for gas and electricity, that amount is probably going to be more.

**Mr Barr:** So it's more?

**MR HANSON:** Yes, it would be, wouldn't it? It probably would be, given the analysis that we have seen that Canberrans in actual fact are getting a bigger discount than originally predicted. So isn't that welcome news? I can hear Mr Barr welcoming that news for Canberra households! Maybe what Mr Barr thinks is, "If they've got more money, I can put rates up even higher." Maybe that is what is running through his mind right now. "Here's a golden opportunity. They've got \$550 back, maybe more. Let's put their rates up." Mr Barr, is that what you are thinking? No doubt it is.

**Mr Barr:** Maybe more, Mr Hanson.

**MR HANSON:** Or maybe more.

**Mr Barr:** You might think it is more than \$550, do you?

**MR HANSON:** We will see. A typical Canberran household is now saving \$320 annually on their power bills, with more savings to come across the whole range of goods and services that they consume. I think that is very welcome news. Mr Barr seems to be critical of this. Mr Barr does not like this. He does not like money going into taxpayers' pockets. We know that he likes it going into his coffers. We know that, so that he can fund Mr Corbell's light rail and so that he can fund his new stadium. That is where Mr Barr wants your money—in his pocket, not in yours.

The Liberal approach, Mr Assistant Speaker, is to stop taxes, to get money into your pocket. What Mr Barr wants is to put taxes up. He wants the carbon tax up. He wants your rates up. He wants the rates up so that he can put it into his pocket and into Mr Corbell's pocket, so that they can build their light rail, so that they can build their stadium and everything else that they want.

*Government members interjecting—*

**MR HANSON:** Listen to them. They hate it that Canberrans are going to get money back. They hate it.

**Mrs Jones:** A point of order.

**MR ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Mr Hanson, resume your seat, please.

**Mrs Jones:** I cannot hear a single word Mr Hanson is saying because of all the interjections from Mr Barr and Mr Corbell across the chamber. Could you please ask them to desist?

**MR ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Thank you. Resume, please, Mr Hanson.

**MR HANSON:** Thank you, Mr Assistant Speaker.

**Mr Barr:** Getting fired up for a Thursday, Jeremy.

**MR HANSON:** They have started again, Mr Assistant Speaker. They really do not like the fact that Canberrans are going to get some tax back. With respect to the Labor tax, be it the carbon tax or whatever else—rates and so on—they just hate it, don't they? I love these interjections. Probably in the next ACT budget there will be some coincidental tax rise of \$550 a person. No doubt Mr Barr is already doing the calculations now.

With the now delivered drop in power costs, Canberra households can expect further cost savings. To further explain to Mr Barr, who seems to lack that simple grasp of where these savings are coming from, let me quote some comments by major industry associations as to what it means for them. This is from the Australian Retailers Association:

There is no doubt this boost to retailer's bottom lines and the pockets of consumers will assist the sector to overcome pressures from excessive costs and be a boost to current low consumer confidence.

This is from Master Grocers Australia:

The removal of what amounted to an onerous toll will give greater opportunities for independent retailers to invest in their businesses and employ more staff.

Won't that be welcome? I quote:

Carbon tax flow-on costs hit Australian farmers every time they pay for essential electricity, fertiliser, chemical and fuel supplies. Rather than promoting Australian farm competitiveness, the tax dampened the sector's efforts to grow and increase productivity.

That is from the National Farmers Federation. But we know that this mob like to tax the most productive elements of society.

Most Canberrans want, where they can, to create a better world, and most found it just unacceptable to be paying for an ideological crusade, driven in many ways by the Greens, and one of the highest carbon pricing mechanisms in the world. We hear a lot about, "Oh, there's carbon pricing everywhere. Everywhere there's carbon pricing."

Let me tell you a little bit about carbon pricing across the world. The Gillard-Rudd punitive tax covered 60 per cent of total emissions across Australia, and it was over \$24 a tonne. Let us have a look at some comparisons. The European Union ETS covered 45 per cent of emissions and it was \$7 a tonne. The regional greenhouse gas initiative, which covers nine states of the US, was about \$3 a tonne and was only on the electricity sector. This was an economy-wide tax, it failed to reduce emissions in a meaningful way, it sent our industry offshore and hurt the pocket of every Canberran.

**Mr Barr:** You're not an ETS supporter now, Jeremy?

**MR HANSON:** An ETS supporter? Remember that it was you lot that wanted the carbon tax. We do not want the carbon tax.

**MR ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Mr Hanson, resume your seat, please. Stop the clock. Members, there are far too many interjections. The member is entitled to be heard without interruption. Mr Hanson.

**MR HANSON:** Thank you, Mr Assistant Speaker. It is welcome to note that it is not only Mr Barr, Mr Corbell and those on that side of this chamber that resent the fact that Canberrans are going to have an extra \$550 to spend on their families this year and every year after. I notice that local member Gai Brodtmann said that Labor was "helping Australian taxpayers". It was helping them to "manage the very small price increases that will occur" as they put a price on carbon. It seems that the local member, Ms Brodtmann, thinks that this \$550 a family is just a small contribution. I look forward to her telling people how small that amount of tax is when she is meeting them at local supermarkets.

They were actually helping themselves to an extra \$320 from every Canberran, and that was just from the power bills alone. That was a \$9 billion hit taken out of our economy—\$9 billion taken out of our economy. That is just unacceptable. The people of Australia had a pretty clear view on this. You will remember that it was Ms Gillard who conned the people of Australia by saying, “There will be no carbon tax under the government I lead.”

**MR ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Mr Hanson, you will withdraw that.

**MR HANSON:** “Conned” them?

**MR ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** “Conned”.

**MR HANSON:** She said one thing and then implemented another.

**MR ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Mr Hanson, that is my ruling.

**MR HANSON:** I will withdraw, Mr Assistant Speaker. But I think we all know what happened. Ms Gillard said before an election, “There will be no carbon tax under the government I lead,” and then she implemented one. So you can call that, I suppose, what you like.

**Mr Barr:** Finish the sentence. What did she say? “There won’t be a carbon tax but I will put a price on carbon.”

**MR HANSON:** You are defending it. Mr Barr is defending it. So he thinks that Ms Gillard told the truth to the people. He thinks that it is okay, as long as you can read the fine print. So you agree? You are going to support Ms Gillard. We know that Mr Barr has his own problem. When he says, “Rates won’t triple,” it is a matter of saying, “But don’t read the fine print.” “When you said ‘triple’, I didn’t realise you meant 11.6 years. I thought it was some time in the next century.” So Mr Barr has his own little carbon tax problem going on, doesn’t he? It is no wonder he is so quick to defend Ms Gillard and her carbon tax statement.

The thing is that the Labor Party still want the carbon tax. They vote for it; they keep voting to keep the carbon tax. And they did so recently. On 10 July in the Senate, for the fourth time, they voted for the carbon tax; they would not support the repeal. On 14 July in the House of Representatives they would not vote against the carbon tax. On 17 July they would not support the repeal of the carbon tax. The Leader of the Opposition, Bill Shorten, was interviewed on radio by Chris Uhlmann, who said: “To be clear on that, you will campaign in the next election to introduce a carbon price?” Bill Shorten said, “Yes.” “Yes, we will.”

The irony is that at the last election the federal Liberals went to the people and said, “We have a very clear mandate. We have a very clear agenda to scrap the carbon tax.” I do not think anyone can dispute that. And the people of Australia said overwhelmingly, “Yes, we want that scrapped.” But once it has come into the parliament, what are Labor and the Greens doing? They are refusing to accept the will

of the Australian people. Worse than that, these great environmentalists on that side, when there is something on the table—direct action—to have a meaningful response to climate change, all do nothing.

In the words of Mr Corbell, they want it to be perfect. The Labor Party is no different from the Greens: “If it isn’t exactly what we want, if it isn’t the carbon tax that we cherish and love, then nothing.” So you lot opposite would rather have no action on carbon emissions—unless it is exactly what you want. And we know what you want—the carbon tax back, because you love taking money out of Canberrans’ pockets.

**MR ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Mr Hanson, address your comments through the chair.

*Mr Barr interjecting—*

**MR HANSON:** We know, Mr Barr, don’t we, that there is no tax you do not like, because you can squeeze them until they bleed but not until they die. But under the Liberals they are getting their money back, and that is a good thing for the people of Canberra.

**MR CORBELL** (Molonglo—Attorney-General, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Environment and Minister for Capital Metro) (4.15): Australia has one of the highest levels of greenhouse gas emissions in the world. In the 12 months to the end of March 2013 it emitted 557 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, making it the 15th largest greenhouse gas emitter in the world. In addition to having a high overall level of greenhouse gas emissions, Australia also has one of the highest per capita emission levels. According to the World Bank, its per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of 16.9 tonnes was the 12th highest in the world, a level 49 per cent higher than the OECD average and around 3½ times the global average.

The repeal of the national carbon pricing scheme is, indeed, a matter of public importance for the territory. Australia as a whole and future generations of people around the world will bear the brunt of this backdown on Australia’s efforts to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. The ACT government has been working with electricity retailers and our independent pricing regulator to ensure that given the decision of the commonwealth parliament these savings are appropriately passed through to households. But we have very good reasons to maintain strong commitment to the support and the implementation of a national pricing scheme for carbon.

Turning to the cost savings of the repeal, the repeal of the carbon price will mean that the annual electricity bill of the average Canberra household will decline by \$143 in 2014-15. If the repeal had not taken place, it would have meant an increase of \$85. However, regardless of carbon pricing, Canberra consumers would have continued to enjoy one of the lowest electricity prices in Australia, approximately 30 per cent less than the national average.

Of greater concern, however, are gas prices, which are still climbing rapidly. Wholesale gas prices have seen large increases recently due to the development of



export capacity on the east coast of Australia. The Prime Minister, Tony Abbott, talks about making Australia a low-cost energy superpower, and he openly advances and advocates the expansion of our gas markets for international export.

What he fails to tell the Australian community, though, is that exposing the domestic gas price to the international export price means higher gas prices for domestic consumers, both in the manufacturing sector and for households. This trend, therefore, is expected to continue and it will put significant pressure on retail gas prices paid by households. Canberra is particularly exposed to this emerging trend of exposing the domestic gas price to the international export price.

With a high level of penetration of gas for domestic household heating, we will see significant pressure on retail gas prices because of decisions taken by the national government to support an expansion in international gas exports. Before the repeal of the carbon price, retail gas prices were expected to increase by over 18 per cent. We know that over the long term, gas prices are expected to continue to increase.

It is saddening to reflect on the long history of carbon pricing policy in Australia. It was first proposed by an alliance of Australian state and territory governments under the banner of the national emissions trading scheme and it was then adopted by the Howard Liberal government as government policy. Both major parties took emissions trading to the federal election in 2007. Since that time pricing carbon has remained Labor Party policy at both state and federal levels.

During that period the ACT joined New South Wales in implementing one of the world's first emission trading schemes, the greenhouse gas abatement program, or the GGAP scheme as it was known, which showed that pricing carbon could be very effective. The government retired the scheme as the national carbon pricing scheme was implemented in July 2012.

The reason for this and federal Labor governments' ongoing commitment to carbon pricing is that pricing carbon is the most economically efficient way of reducing emissions across the economy. It is a policy that facilitates the greatest national prosperity and that has any chance of being effective and sustainable over the long term.

Historically, and now once again with the commonwealth's repeal, it is free for large firms like mining companies and coal powered generators to emit carbon. They are free to pollute. This means emissions are unrestrained and not subject to any market pressures. Economists call this notion a negative externality, which means polluters externalise the cost of their pollution onto the community and ultimately onto the public purse.

They free-ride on the community, endlessly increasing pollution at the expense of current and future generations. Ultimately, this translates into inefficient investment decisions that provide a drag on the economy and the achievement of environmental objectives. A price on carbon internalises the cost of carbon pollution into business investment decisions. It is the only way to effectively address this problem over the long term.

So-called direct action initiatives have been tried before and they have failed. A good example of this was the commonwealth's greenhouse gas abatement program run by the Howard government. The commonwealth paid hundreds of millions of dollars to polluters through a tender process to reduce emissions; sound familiar? Despite this, what has been achieved? There is no evidence of any success of this initiative. Its failure has been scrubbed from the public record and I am sure that the current generation of commonwealth direct action policies will suffer a similar fate.

Of course, the commonwealth's wrecking ball approach to climate policy does not stop with carbon pricing. The appointment of the well-known climate sceptic, Dick Warburton, to head the review of the commonwealth's renewable energy target spells dark days ahead for this important piece of policy.

The ACT government has made a submission to the RET review highlighting that electricity is the main driver of Australia's high level of greenhouse gas emissions. In the 12 months to 31 March 2013, the nation's electricity supply emitted 187 megatons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, approximately a third of total national emissions. According to the World Resources Institute, Australia had the fourth highest per capita emission from electricity and heat supply in the world. This was the highest in the OECD and five times the world average.

This high level of emissions is driven by Australia's dependence on black and brown coal for most of its electricity generation. It is inconceivable that meaningful emissions cuts can be achieved without properly tackling electricity supply sector emissions. In the presence of an effective national system for pricing carbon, the role for renewable energy targets would diminish over time. Wholesale market pricing would be corrected to internalise the social and economic costs of carbon pollution. Coupled with continuing reductions in the cost of renewable energy supply, carbon pricing would deliver the required decarbonisation of our electricity supply.

But in the absence of effective carbon pricing, the need for renewable energy support policies remains paramount. Given the dominant role of electricity in Australia's high level of emissions, the government believes it is critical that the current renewable energy target is maintained and indeed strengthened over time. After a long history of growth, Australia's electricity emissions actually declined over the last five years and this was in large part because of the renewable energy target. It is important that the momentum of this decline is sustained through the maintenance of the RET

Mr Assistant Speaker, we all understand the consequence of climate change. We all understand the increases in average global temperatures and what this means in terms of climate variability and impacts such as more extreme weather events. We will not be quarantined from these impacts. We need to move beyond this short-term partisan argument about costs and saving a few dollars on an electricity bill, towards a comprehensive policy setting that ensures we have a sustainable economy, community and environment for the long term.

**MS LAWDER** (Brindabella) (4.25): I am very happy to rise today to support Mr Hanson's matter of public importance on the benefit to the ACT of the repeal of

the carbon tax. As we have already heard, it is us here, the Liberals, who are and always have been focused on reducing the cost of living in the ACT. We are focused on ordinary Canberrans. We are focused on the cost of living that is increasing across the territory and causing grief for so many Canberra families. It seems no matter what we are talking about, the cost of it is rising, and it is rising quicker than wages can keep up with it.

More and more families are finding themselves under financial pressure, having difficulty heating their homes, paying their mortgages, sending their children to child care, and they are having difficulties paying their rates. We stand here today pleased that our federal counterparts have been successful in fulfilling their election mandate. They have been successful in their promise to the Australian people of scrapping the carbon tax. As much as their Labor counterparts wish to keep costs high, the government finally won the battle to decrease the cost of living for our community. We are relieved that this enormous tax on families has been removed and that prices will start to go down on some of our most vital bills.

There have been numerous headlines in the media over the past few weeks. They provide a nice outline of the benefits we will see in Canberra. ABC Online reported, "Electricity, gas prices reduced in Canberra after Canberra carbon tax repealed." On 19 July, the *Canberra Times* reported, "Canberra to save more than most from carbon tax repeal." And yesterday the *Canberra Times* had another headline, "Average ACT energy bills drop by more than \$300 a year after carbon price repealed." Mr Assistant Speaker, these headlines give a good picture of the benefits that we will receive from this repeal.

But along with the news that our electricity and gas bills will drop, we must remember when we have this debate that this affects much more than just our electricity and gas bills in terms of cost of living benefits for our territory, because the carbon tax put pressure on everything. Anything we consume that has been manufactured in Australia, stored in an Australian warehouse or sold in an Australian store was affected by upwards pressure from the carbon tax.

Even farmers were not immune from the carbon tax. Work undertaken by the Australian Farm Institute and mentioned by the National Farmers Federation notes that the average farm business, depending on the commodity produced, would incur additional costs of up to \$10,000 per annum under the carbon tax. All of those costs are passed on to the average consumer. So removing this tax will mean saving money for consumers in the ACT. Removal of the carbon will mean saving money for ordinary Canberrans.

The repeal of the carbon tax is removing also an administrative burden on businesses who had to shoulder an almost \$90 million a year cost to be compliant. Those opposite in the chamber like to compare the incremental charges and increases they impose with alarming regularity to being worth, they often say, the equivalent of just the cost of a cup of coffee a week. I can tell you that the saving of about \$300 on energy bills alone will mean a saving of more than a cup of coffee a week to consumers. It will mean about 67 cups of coffee a year for the average household. It is nice to see that go back the other way for a change.

The day after the carbon tax was repealed, AGL published the following statement in newspapers right across Australia:

Now that legislation has been passed to remove the carbon tax, as an AGL residential or small business customer, you will benefit from reduced electricity and gas prices. That is our promise to you. We will write to you shortly to let you know the details of the price reductions you will get due to the removal of the carbon tax, and you can rest assured these will be backdated to 1 July 2014. You don't need to do anything. We'll make sure you receive all your savings.

Hopefully this has not come too late for some consumers. At the Tuggeranong Community Council just the other night I heard the story of an older lady, a pensioner from Kambah, who, after receiving her latest gas bill which had gone up 16 per cent, rang AGL and had her gas disconnected. This resident said that she would go to bed early during winter to keep warm because she simply could not afford her heating bills any longer.

The carbon tax disproportionately affected Canberrans because of the cold weather here. Our heating sucks up a lot of our energy costs. So the removal of the carbon tax will decrease these costs and help any residents who find themselves in a similar position to this lady from Kambah—residents who have to go to bed early just to keep warm because they cannot afford their energy bills. From what I hear, this especially applies to older Canberrans. So now with the repeal of the carbon tax that disproportionately affected Canberrans we will also get a larger benefit than some other states and territories.

I know that the cost of living affects residents of my electorate and the ACT as a whole. I am pleased to be a member of a party that is taking steps to relieve pressures on the cost of living for these families. I look forward to counting and seeing the benefits that will flow to the ACT. I look forward to the cost of living benefits that each and every family, industry, business, producer and organisation in our territory will receive as a result of this repeal of the carbon tax.

**MR RATTENBURY** (Molonglo—Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Minister for Corrective Services, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs and Minister for Sport and Recreation) (4.31): I am pleased that Mr Hanson has raised this issue as a matter of public importance, because it is that: it is an important public matter. That is probably about the only part of this afternoon's discussions that I agree with him on. Having it on the agenda does give us the chance to remind ourselves about how the carbon tax actually worked when it was in place, what the real impact on household budgets was and what the impacts are of people, communities and countries failing to take action on climate change.

For the benefit of Mr Hanson and his colleagues, I will go through a quick review of the design of the carbon tax in the first place. The actual scheme was cost neutral—that is right: cost neutral. The carbon tax was applied only to the top 300 big polluters, but in acknowledgement that costs would be passed on to householders through the scheme, compensation payments were included in the package. This means that at-risk householders were compensated for increases in electricity prices. This was

through the mechanism of the clean energy supplement that was paid to those on government payments, such as single parents, pensioners, veterans, students and the unemployed. There were also changes to the tax-free threshold that meant that households were provided with tax cuts across the board. When the changes were announced, the tax cuts were expected to result in lower taxes of \$300 for incomes up to \$68,000.

When ActewAGL announced the changes to electricity and gas prices yesterday, they calculated there would be a \$222 annual decrease on electricity and a \$98 annual decrease on gas. That is calculated on an average Canberra bill. In total, that is \$320 a year. But the previous tax cuts were already about \$300 a year. This is starting to put the real cost in perspective. And that is before the clean energy supplement even kicked in.

The current Liberal Prime Minister has indicated to Australians that they will make a saving of about \$550 a year on the repeal of the carbon tax. That figure really is a mirage. Firstly, even in the ACT, where average electricity bills are probably a bit higher than in many places, the savings are not \$550. The savings are not \$550, and yesterday's announcements made that clear.

Secondly, Mr Abbott was including a whole bunch of stuff where the costs were never passed on in the first place—things such as air travel, clothing costs and rental accommodation. There was a convenient use of the figures to make the whole story suit his argument a bit more, but those costs were never actually passed on.

The one good thing that will come out of Clive Palmer's amendments to the carbon tax repeal is that we will be able to see what the actual household savings will be. But that is where the irony is. While Tony Abbott has not been keen to talk about compensation to householders much at all—God forbid he would want to remind people that the entire scheme was designed to be cost neutral so that it would not have an impact on households—he wants to continue the compensation payments to households for two more years, in spite of ripping up the carbon price. Low and middle income households will end up not just being compensated but better off. That little luxury will cost the federal government—of course, that means the Australian taxpayers—half a billion dollars over two years.

Where does that money come from? It comes out of funding for health, education or public transport, possibly. There are myriad services that the federal government has sought to cut in the last federal budget. There are myriad new cost pressures they have put on, including a Medicare co-payment, ostensibly to save money. Yet they want to keep this handout to people for a carbon tax that they have now repealed.

Mr Hanson's doom and gloom scenarios for householders under a carbon tax are the local version of the doom and gloom scenarios that his federal colleagues and candidates at the election last year were also painting. They were talking about a "toxic tax" that would "act as a wrecking ball across the economy"—they were the phrases we heard during the election campaign—with economic consequences that would be "absolutely catastrophic".

The carbon price was in place for two years, and it is instructive to look at what actually happened to the economy during that period. Stephen Koukoulas, a research fellow at the think tank Per Capita, analyses some of this information. He says that since the carbon price was introduced, real GDP has risen five per cent over seven quarters, with an annualised growth rate of 2.9 per cent, which is around the long run trend.

Employment has risen by 240,800 people, made up of 91,200 new full-time jobs and 149,600 part-time jobs. This is a touch below trend, but this, together with the GDP growth rate, suggests productivity growth has been strong. The stock market, the all ordinaries index, has risen 35 per cent, adding over \$410 billion to the value of Australian shares. A further \$90 billion or so of dividends were paid to shareholders while the carbon price was in place.

According to RP Data, house prices rose 16 per cent while the carbon price was in place, adding approximately \$680 billion to the wealth of owners of houses. It is interesting; it is really interesting.

*Members interjecting—*

**MR RATTENBURY:** The interjections have started to come thick and fast. They do not like what they are hearing. They do not like the fact that their entire myth about this being a wrecking ball to the Australian economy is disproved by the cold, hard numbers that are in place and that show what actually happened to the Australian economy in the two years the carbon price was in place. It is not an economic wrecking ball at all. We have seen that the Australian economy has gone along. It has gone along quite well. In fact, we have seen a significant boost to the alternative energy industries.

I note the interesting comments that Minister Corbell made about gas prices. He made some very salient points about the impact of gas prices and the way that gas prices are being forced up by a range of other external factors. That is where renewables really come into the equation, because they deliver costs that are not going to go up, costs that will be stable for the next 10, 15 or 20 years once the infrastructure is in place.

I am not necessarily a huge fan of using all these economic indicators as a sign of a valuable society. I think a valuable society is measured by much more than just these economic indicators. But there is no doubt that those figures show that the Australian economy did not have a wrecking ball go through it while the carbon tax was in place.

Stephen Koukoulas reminds us of a series of other indicators that remained solid or strong over the two years—retail sales, new motor vehicle registrations, building approvals, credit, housing finance and the like.

*Members interjecting—*

**MR RATTENBURY:** They are interjecting yet again; they just cannot handle it when the actual facts show that their case does not stack up. Australia's AAA credit

rating has also remained unchallenged; bond yields were low; and the Australian dollar has been strong. Rather than seeing an economic wrecking ball, it is embarrassing now for the Prime Minister and embarrassing for the coalition. And all of this without factoring in the costs of not taking action on climate change.

I often think it is easy for people who are focused on local issues to write off national and international issues and impacts. But just in case those on the other side of the chamber thought that this was not about them, remember that the costs are also local. Yes, there are real local costs. These will affect the people of the ACT as well as people on low-lying Pacific atolls and in other vulnerable parts of the world.

These are not impacts that we can pretend are going to avoid us. We have already felt the impact of prolonged heatwaves. We saw some examples just this summer of what extended heat periods can look like. It affected our buses. We saw that that had a cost on people's time and extra maintenance. We had the extra costs of watering our street trees to keep them alive through difficult spells.

*Mr Hanson interjecting—*

**MADAM ASSISTANT SPEAKER** (Ms Lawder): Order! Mr Hanson, I cannot hear Mr Rattenbury. Please keep your comments down.

**MR RATTENBURY**: We had to spend extra money to make sure that our trees were maintained. We saw our car parks and bitumen melting, which resulted in additional costs, with TAMS having to go out and do more maintenance on our roads.

They are local practical examples of what extended periods of heat can look like, and these costs will be amplified as we see the scientific models come into place. These costs will hit everyone. They will hit the residents of Canberra. They will hit the Liberal Party and all their conservative bedfellows. These are the realities and these are the true costs of not acting on climate change.

Then there is the sad tragedy of global climate change. There is much more about that than could ever be said in the time available to me today, but the reality is that if we do not act on climate change, there will be significant costs, well beyond the sort of costs that Mr Hanson is talking about today.

At the end of the day, right now, it is a very simple equation. Anyone in public policy is either working on the side of preventing a disastrous outcome for our planet or they are working against it. There is no agnostic anymore. The science is clear. You either are making an effort to do something serious about this or you are not. It is clear which side the Abbott government is on, and history will clearly judge them for that.

**DR BOURKE** (Ginninderra) (4.41): The Liberal Party has abandoned any pretence of concern about the impacts of global warming. Mr Hanson is spruiking that they have removed Australia's pricing on carbon pollution. Given that the Liberals will do nothing to slow global warming, there is no point in maintaining any increases that result from regulating carbon pollution. As with so many promises of Mr Abbott, promised savings were grossly inflated and they will definitely be under-delivered.

The ACT government is working to ensure that carbon price savings are passed in full to Canberra's households. I am happy to say that this has been achieved by submissions to the ICRC to ensure that a retrospective carbon price repeal could be implemented under the electricity price regulation framework and writing to the CEO of ActewAGL with regard to unregulated gas pricing, communicating our strong expectations that carbon price savings will be passed through in full. The repeal of the carbon price will mean that an average Canberra family consuming eight megawatt hours annually will pay \$143 less in electricity bills in 2014-15 compared to last year. If the carbon price repeal had not taken place, this would have meant an increase of \$85 in 2014-15 instead of a decrease.

The reality contradicts the lies in the coalition's September 2013 policy document, still on their website, about lowering prices by scrapping the carbon tax. The site claims average families would be better off by more than \$550, rising to around \$900 a year in 2019-20. The coalition's \$550 figure is from old Treasury modelling. The electricity part of that increase was only to be \$250 from electricity. Canberrans will only see half of this. Other Treasury forecasts included items such as food, \$46; clothing, \$29; and rent, \$23. Yet major retailers such as Woolworths said they just absorbed the small increases and would not be dropping prices following the abolition of the tax.

In contrast, the coalition's budget added tax and other costs to average families of thousands of dollars. Madam Assistant Speaker, in relation to your point on gas heating, the trend of higher gas prices is expected to continue. We have already heard that this afternoon. These increases are driven by the federal government's development of gas export facilities on the east coast of Australia exposing our domestic gas price to the significantly higher priced gas in export markets. This gas price increase is a direct result of federal government policy. Families awaiting a \$550 bounce in their family budget will be very disappointed.

Regardless of carbon pricing, Canberra consumers would have continued to enjoy one of the lowest electricity prices in Australia in 2014-15, approximately 30 per cent less than the national average. This government's strong commitment to support a national carbon pricing scheme remains. It is the most efficient way of reducing emissions.

*Discussion concluded.*

## **Adjournment**

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

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

## **ACT Greens—fundraising**

**MR COE** (Ginninderra) (4.45): I rise to provide further information about the hypocrisy of the Greens. We repeatedly hear the Greens criticise Labor and the Liberals as being the old parties while the Greens are supposedly a pure and fresh



organisation. Well, this afternoon I am going to detail, in part, the fundraising activities of the Greens. They run slick and deliberate fundraising operations. In fact, who knows, they may well even be better organised and more centralised than the other major parties. The Greens like to propagate a myth that they are a humble operation running on goodwill, the sale of the odd fair trade coffee and lamington drives. Well, it simply is not so, and they should be scrutinised like every other party is.

The Greens run a centralised online national database called CIVI, which deals with many aspects of their operation. Unfortunately, their professionalism was somewhat limited as they accidentally and temporarily published the procedures manual for the database and their fundraising online. The manual is riddled with screen shots, videos, support contact details and instructional text. There are many interesting components of this document. The Greens national fundraising procedure, as updated in April 2012, has an interesting section on donor recognition. It says:

It takes a lot of time and resources to generate donations, and unless we acknowledge our supporters appropriately, we run the risk of losing them ... It is also important that people are recognised in a manner consistent with their level of giving.

This means that they owe some people more than they owe others. How the Greens would cry foul if such words were included in a Liberal Party document. The Greens have donor statuses including “lapsed”, “lapsing” and “never”. They also class people as major donors who have given \$10,000-plus, high value donors, bequests and regular donors. It says:

All new regular donors should be contacted with a phone call from the home state. These are highly valuable gifts, as such, it is strongly advised that each state to develop a good relationship with them. Regular Donors should also be invited to supporter events, and should receive end of financial year thank you letters with combined receipts for the year. It’s also a good opportunity to give them a call and possibly uplift their regular contribution.

It goes on:

Those tagged as major donors are subject to specific approaches, eg. those up to \$10k still get appeal approaches unless other conditions are specified. Those who donate over \$10k only receive personal approaches.

Another interesting line is:

In general, we do not delete records unless they are spam, particularly if there is donation or membership data attached.

The database stipulates how often phone calls should be made to donors, such as every second or third donation. For people who donate above \$1,500, the manual states that they should get an end of financial year thank you letter and supporter event invitations. It says:

Getting to know supporters face to face is a very powerful way to improve relationships with them, to understand their interests and motivation to give. It's also an opportunity for the Donor to meet key people in the Party, and to better understand where their money is going and why the Party needs it.

All this information is entered into their database, CIVI. The manual with screen shots about how to enter telephone call dates has an extensive report-generation capability. The manual states how to make a record of telephone calls made to potential donors:

People we wish to maintain contact with may indicate particular preferences in relation to how they do or don't want to be contacted in relation to fundraising.

Those who don't not specify any conditions will be sent all hardcopy appeals and email appeals where we have their email address.

It goes on:

Those who complain about the length of long letters will be sent only short letters.

The Greens also target people as being prospects for bequests:

Small, low cost events for regular donors, bequest prospects and some major donors are a good way to engage supporters. Events such as these require the support of key individuals in the Party as their attendance at small events is a good way to get supporters to come along.

I wonder whether our ACT Greens minister, Shane Rattenbury, ever sizes people up as being a "bequest prospect". The database can also extract people who live within a certain distance of a location, people who have given to certain appeals and people who need to be hit up again. It can also use demographic and geographic information to send text messages to targets.

I do not put this on the record tonight to cast judgement on these practices but to point out that the Greens operate an orchestrated, data-focused, money-oriented and partisan operation. We should not accept that they do anything less.

### **South-east Asian art and culture**

**MS PORTER** (Ginninderra) (4.50): On Monday, I joined His Excellency Min Thein, chair of the ASEAN committee in Canberra and ambassador of Myanmar, a number of ambassadors and high commissioners of ASEAN to welcome them and other distinguished guests to the opening reception for the south-east Asian art and culture *Ideas, Forms and Societies* exhibition on behalf of the Chief Minister. The ACT Legislative Assembly is incredibly fortunate to be hosting such an exhibition—

*Mr Coe interjecting—*

**MS PORTER:** I would like a bit of silence.

**MADAM ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Mr Coe!

**MS PORTER:** Thank you. The ACT Legislative Assembly is incredibly fortunate to be hosting such an exhibition celebrating 40 years of the ASEAN dialogue partnership with Australia. It highlights the importance of ASEAN not only for us as politicians, for the political sphere and economic organisations, but also as an organisation which aims to enhance the broader cultural understanding of its member nations.

Australia was one of the first to recognise the importance of the ASEAN relationship, starting with a small meeting of officials in Canberra in 1974, becoming the first ASEAN dialogue partner and then growing to the very strong partnership we see today. At a local level, it is an opportunity to engage with the diverse cultures of these nations without having to leave home and that, of course, is of great benefit.

The artefacts and artworks for this exhibition were selected by the ASEAN member embassies and high commissions as a way of showcasing their unique cultures. I can imagine it was no easy task to select these items, but from what we see in the exhibition room upstairs, they have chosen well and I congratulate all those who were involved.

Dr Charlotte Galloway, in her role as secretary with AusHeritage and her position as a lecturer in curatorial studies at the Australian National University and also because of her research interests in cultural heritage management in Asia, curated the exhibition. Dr Galloway's passion for Asian art and culture is evident and I hope many Canberrans take the opportunity to visit the exhibition. It will be its last day tomorrow; so I would encourage everybody that has not already been upstairs and taken some time to look at the extensive exhibit up there and the information that is provided to do so before it is taken down later tomorrow.

Again, congratulations to all those people who worked to make this possible, including the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the diplomatic corps and, of course, AusHeritage and to individual members of ASEAN. I want to encourage you all to take the time, as I said before, to visit the exhibition.

### **National Missing Persons Week**

**MR WALL** (Brindabella) (4.53): I rise this afternoon to speak about National Missing Persons Week. Approximately 35,000 people go missing in Australia every year. This equates to about one person every 15 minutes. Thankfully, 99.5 per cent of these people are found. However there are more than about 1,600 long-term people missing. This means that they have been missing for in excess of six months.

The three most at-risk groups within our community of going missing are the youth, those living with a mental illness and the elderly, with males being consistently overrepresented in each category. It is believed that for every person that goes missing at least 12 other people are affected either emotionally, psychologically, physically or financially.

This year's National Missing Persons Week seeks to highlight members of our community that are at risk of going missing as a result of dementia or memory loss. People with dementia are at risk of wandering. This behaviour is sometimes associated with moving into a changed environment as a result of memory loss, searching for the past, excess energy, expressing boredom, continuing a long-established habit, agitation or sometimes as a result of discomfort or pain.

Part of the focus this year, though, is to highlight what is described as safe walking practices and minimising the risk of unsafe walking. There are a number of things that people can do if they have a family member or a loved one that is at risk, such as helping to maintain physical fitness, ensuring that they are dressed consistently in comfortable footwear and appropriate clothing for all weather.

Another safeguard that can be taken is preparing identification labels that can be discreetly put on a family member's clothing or other items that can be permanently with the person, such as a Medic Alert bracelet or other jewellery. There is also an opportunity to promote discreetly, amongst family and community where your loved one may regularly visit, their condition and that sometimes they may need some assistance in getting home safely.

I would urge any members of the community seeking more information or concerned about missing persons to visit the missing persons website at [www.missingpersons.gov.au](http://www.missingpersons.gov.au) or to look at the fight dementia website on [www.fightdementia.org.au](http://www.fightdementia.org.au).

### **IMB Building Society—grants**

**DR BOURKE** (Ginninderra) (4.56): Tonight I congratulate and recognise the IMB Building Society's community foundation 2014 grants and the wonderful initiatives of local grant recipients. IMB Building Society has been serving New South Wales and our region since the 1880s. Its community foundation gave grants this year worth \$440,000 to 50 not-for-profit organisations. Nine projects from the ACT-Goulburn region will share in over \$80,000.

I had the pleasure of presenting the grants at the Belconnen Arts Centre awards ceremony and hearing of the great work recipients will be doing with their grants. The Rotary Club of Canberra grant goes towards their rotary young driver awareness program aimed at reducing death and injury amongst young people on the roads by influencing attitudes of drivers and, importantly, passengers before they get their licences.

St John Ambulance ACT's grant will assist with a project to see the establishment of six portable health clinics for St John ACT healthcare professionals and first responders to operate from when deployed at community events. These facilities will enhance and expand St John Ambulance ACT's clinical capabilities and make them more obvious at community events. Belconnen Community Men's Shed will equip their shed with safety and first aid equipment and have training in its use for emergencies. Funds will also contribute to providing personal protection gear and a defibrillator.

Parkinson's ACT will use their grant in partnership with Belconnen Arts Centre to run weekly dance classes during school terms for people with Parkinson's disease. Classes will be run by a professionally trained dance teacher with experience in dancing with Parkinson's. The Community Programs Association, now called LEAD—standing for live, experience, access and develop—will upgrade a previous project providing more affordable and sustainable transport for students and the Canberra community.

Snowy Hydro SouthCare will use their grant to develop an educational resource pack—emergency services in schools—for targeted school visits. These will include workshops and education on the Snowy Hydro SouthCare scheme. The aim is for students to share their knowledge and learning experience with the wider community. Vision Australia's grant will be used to upgrade Daisy player devices to connect to Daisy online, enabling members to read audio books and newspapers.

In addition to the community grants, IMB supports a variety of charity, community and sporting organisations at events by providing marquees, making IMB a very recognisable organisation in our local area. Over the years, the IMB community foundation has granted more than \$7.1 million to support more than 450 projects throughout local communities. I thank IMB for their continued support and congratulate the recipients of the IMB community foundation grants.

### **Weston Creek Community Council**

**MRS JONES** (Molonglo) (4.59): On Wednesday, 30 July, I had the pleasure of attending Weston Creek Community Council. I love attending the odd community council meeting because it is such a great opportunity to meet people who really care a lot about their local area. I want to thank everybody who attends Weston Creek Community Council and those who help run their meetings. But I particularly would like to thank the chair, Tom Anderson; deputy chair, Pat McGinn; secretary, Jenny Adams; Treasurer, Simon Hearder; and committee members, Christine Wilson, Mal Ferguson and Max Kwiatkowski, for all their hard work in organising each meeting and the work they do that nobody sees promoting Weston Creek and raising issues that need improvement.

One issue that seems to continually pop up at these meetings is the surfacing of the Cooleman Court car park. The chip seal on the road at this car park has caused problems and distress for many residents of Weston Creek, right from the time when the chip seal was first laid and it was all over the shops, through the wheels of elderly people's walkers and through the ridges of the escalators. Since then, some who use the shopping centre to do their grocery shopping still find it difficult to push a trolley over it.

The newly laid tar is now also peeling off in chunks all over the place. One person I met said they no longer use the shopping centre to do their shopping and now go to Woden due to the chip seal. The use of chip seal in this car park is something the government needs to reconsider. I implore the minister to revisit the issue. The Weston Creek community need a useful car park. They already have enough to deal

with as it is with the lack of car parking space. The use of such road coverings perhaps is not appropriate. Perhaps we could have the car park fixed and made more usable for the ratepayers of Weston Creek.

### Mr Gavin Jones

**MR RATTENBURY** (Molonglo—Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Minister for Corrective Services, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs and Minister for Sport and Recreation) (5.01): I would like to express my condolences on the death of Mr Gavin Jones, a man who grew up on Ngunnawal and Gundungurra country and a founder of the prestigious Deadly Awards.

Gavin's family connection was in the country between Cowra and Goulburn. His passing on 12 July 2014 was felt not just in Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community but throughout this nation. He grew up in Goulburn, received his bachelor's degree in communication at the University of Canberra, and followed his vision to support all Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people in reaching their full potential by providing positive imagery, identifiable role models and quality media to improve community and quality of life.

He has previously spoken about his motivations for starting Vibe Australia being in part after the 1990s Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, which partly found that negative stereotypes of Indigenous people were contributing, or do contribute, to the perpetual cycle of disadvantage and racism.

He founded a weekly radio show called *Deadly Sounds*, and the Deadly Awards that are screened live on SBS television. Within four years of his graduation, Gavin started *Deadly Sounds* in 1993, which is now heard on over 200 Indigenous stations all over Australia, followed by the *Deadly Vibe* magazine in 1995, the first such publication of its kind, and which celebrated its 200th issue last year.

Following the success of *Deadly Vibe*, Gavin Jones launched *InVibe*, a *Deadly Vibe* insert targeted at incarcerated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults and youth, with positive and educational messages about mental and sexual health, substance abuse, and Vibe's mission of promoting pride and self-worth. The Vibe 3on3 travelling youth event was designed to further reiterate Vibe's mission and improve health awareness among Indigenous youth. He was about projecting positive images for and of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The annual Deadly Awards ceremony started in Sydney two decades ago to celebrate achievement, excellence and the best of the Indigenous community's sportspeople, musicians and artists. The Deadlys, as they are affectionately known, has grown into a huge annual event held at Sydney's Opera House, broadcast on SBS and reaching more than half a million people. This year was to be the 20th Deadlys. A message on the *Deadly Vibe* website said:

Noted for his generosity, kindness, and genuine care for others, Gavin was one of the true pioneers and heroes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander advancement, and will be missed and remembered by the countless individuals whose lives he touched, and helped to improve.

In June 2014 Vibe Australia was informed that funds for the Vibe project will be directed to the Australian government's programs that deliver front-line services from 1 July 2014. This was a devastating blow to Gavin Jones's dream. This crippled the Deadly family of events for the foreseeable future, a development that had purportedly left Gavin heartbroken. In the words of Luke Carroll, Australian television and film actor:

The Australian community, not only the Aboriginal and Torres Strait community, has lost a genuine leader of people. Gavin Jones was a mentor, brother, father figure, and great confidant, not only to me, but to so many within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander entertainment, sporting, and grass roots community. His ambition and drive in promoting our people on the biggest and brightest stage possible was his passion, and he did this without any thought of personal gain, he was the most giving and generous person I have ever known and his legacy and the ramifications of his death will be felt for many generations to come. There is a massive void that is left from his absence, and we must never, ever forget the contribution he has made.

They are powerful words from Luke Carroll. Gavin was a silent leader, continually pushing the achievements and contributions of others into the spotlight while himself shying away from accolades and recognition. Through his passionate and incredible work ethic, ambition, creative drive and commitment to the empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over more than two decades, Gavin leaves behind an impressive legacy and will be remembered as a man who made a huge contribution to his community and helped to change the fabric of Australian society, providing successful and impactful nationwide platforms for Indigenous Australians to celebrate their achievements, their survival, their pride and culture.

### **Ainslie IGA**

**MR DOSZPOT** (Molonglo) (5.06): Tonight I would like to recognise an important achievement for two Ainslie constituents—Manuel Xyrakis and his sister Irene Mihailakis, who are joint managing directors of the Ainslie IGA. IGA Ainslie was awarded the IGA deli department of the year award and the IGA meat department of the year award at the 2014 national IGA retailer of the year awards held on 21 July on the Gold Coast. The awards recognise the efforts of the store and its staff in the community, placing the IGA Ainslie store as the benchmark for other supermarkets across Australia.

For anyone who has visited their store, Manuel and Irene have focused on enhancing their customers' in-store experience by extending their offer beyond that of a traditional supermarket, transforming, as they say, the weekly chore of shopping into an exciting, inspiring experience by giving locals access to a huge range of fresh produce and gourmet foods. Their meat department has been described by IGA head office as a market leader in independent meat retailing, with an in-store butchery and exceptional meat quality and standards.

The deli has always had fantastic standards, a great range of locally grown and in-store product lines, as well as a huge selection of gourmet entertaining products,

including cheeses, olives, antipasti and locally produced and imported cured meats. All salads, as well as many hot food lines, are made fresh in store every day and the quality of the produce is second to none. I know from many of their customers that their cheese section is seriously world class and attracts customers from across Canberra and outside the ACT.

They also own the adjoining liquor store, Ainslie Cellars, and stock wines from all wine regions throughout Australia and overseas. Importantly, they are also supporters of the Canberra and region wine show, held each year in September at the RNCAS Exhibition Park, demonstrating their commitment to supporting Canberra.

The only disappointment on the night of the awards was the lack of recognition of the ACT. Manny Xyrakis and his sister Irene Mihailakis were continually described as being from IGA Ainslie in New South Wales, despite Manny's less than subtle prompting of the MC, Paul McDermott, who, as an ex-Canberran, should have known better. He was in fact less than positive about Canberra. But Manny has always been a proud Canberran and he stood up to the rather crude taunts of the MC. Manny had the last laugh as he picked up the two major awards on the night and certainly put Canberra on the map in front of the 1,500 by then cheering attendees.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* on 23 July ran this story on page 22, giving Manny recognition of his championing of Canberra. So for those who would like to know the full story, I suggest you seek it out. It is certainly worth reading.

Other than that episode on the night, the night was, by all accounts, a great success. It is a huge achievement for a local Canberra suburban store to win such prestigious awards. Congratulations to the Xyrakis family; they are great ambassadors for our city.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

**The Assembly adjourned at 5.10 pm until Tuesday, 12 August 2014, at 10 am.**





## Answers to questions

### Territory and Municipal Services Directorate—surveys (Question No 256)

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 20 March 2014:

- (1) How much money has the Government spent on surveys for the last three financial years.
- (2) What companies have been engaged and at what cost.
- (3) How are subjects and issues identified as being the subject of surveys.
- (4) Does the Government provide survey companies with names and/or addresses of people to ask questions of; if not, how are respondents chosen by the survey companies engaged by the Government.
- (5) Does the Government (a) provide funding for, and (b) endorse, the provision of gifts or remuneration to respondents of surveys conducted on behalf of the Government.

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

- (1) Territory and Municipal Services has spent in the order of \$503,000 on surveys in the last three financial years.
- (2) The survey companies and their costs are as follows:

Market Attitude Research Services	\$168,236.71
Market Solutions	\$77,545.02
Micromex	\$216,419.76
Purdon Associates	\$24,370.00
Nexus Research	\$11,748.00
People Dynamics	\$4,280.00

- (3) Subjects and issues are identified in the following way:

Parks and City Services Customer Satisfaction Survey	Used to report against TAMS' accountability indicators and improve services
Playgrounds and Community Parks survey	Used to identify community needs
Shopping Centre upgrades	Used to identify community needs
Horse Agistment Client Survey	Horse paddock clients are asked to rate the overall service provided by the Territory agistment contractor
Kangaroo Management Attitude Survey	To gauge the communities view on the management of eastern grey kangaroos and policies relating to the annual culling program.

Libraries ACT Survey	The library survey subjects were chosen to determine community needs, customer satisfaction, gather evaluation and benchmarking
Libraries and Learning Survey	The library survey subjects were chosen to determine community needs, customer satisfaction, gather evaluation and benchmarking
Library Borrowing - for loans policy evaluation	Information used to formulate loans policy
Cemeteries Post Burial Survey	Customer satisfaction survey used for service improvements
Capital Linen Workforce Survey	Workforce Survey - Focused on perception of workforce behaviour and performance
ACT NoWaste Mugga Lane Local Resident Survey	Subjects identified by the planning consultants to inform community attitudes to the Mugga Landfill expansion Stage 5 proposal
Canberra Connect Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey	Based on ensuring services are satisfactory, meet expectations and to gain understanding of trends, issues and opportunities. They are also used to report against TAMS' accountability indicators
TAMS Annual Survey including follow up focus groups	The subjects chosen reflect on the diversity of the TAMS' portfolio. The annual survey also reports against TAMS' accountability indicators
Communications Methods Survey	Assessed how people currently receive / prefer to receive ACT Government information

(4) No.

The Horse Agistment Client Survey and Cemeteries Post Burial Survey are completed by respondents that have opted in to complete a survey.

In the case of the Canberra Connect Customer Satisfaction Survey respondents are randomly selected from a database of residents that have volunteered to complete surveys. This database is owned and managed by the survey company.

Participants in the TAMS annual survey focus groups are representatively selected to ensure they broadly mirror the profile of the community.

The survey of ACT Government communications methods was completed by those on a database of residents that volunteered to complete surveys. The survey was also promoted through ACT Government channels.

The remainder of TAMS' survey respondents are randomly selected by the survey company from the White Pages.

(5) a) No.

b) No. There was one contractor, who without TAMS' knowledge offered an incentive to respondents. The Director General has re-iterated this practice will cease and no future contracts are to offer inducement of any sort.

### **ACT Emergency Services Agency—budget (Question No 265)**

**Mr Smyth** asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 9 April 2014:

- (1) For each of the respective ACT Emergency Services Agency: ACT Ambulance Services, ACT Fire and Rescue, ACT Rural Fire Service, State Emergency Service, will the Minister provide (a) the budget and outcome for wages in (i) 2012-13 and (ii) 2013-14, (b) wages paid for overtime in (i) 2012-13 and (ii) 2013-14, (c) the number of FTE staff in (i) 2012-13, and (ii) 2013-14 and (d) current unfilled positions.
- (2) For each unfilled position, will the Minister provide a list for each agency as of the date of responding to this Question On Notice.
- (3) Will the Minister provide the total budget for each agency for the 2012-13 and 2013-14 financial years.
- (3) Have there been any amendments made to the Crown Lease for Section 63 in relation to commence and complete.
- (4) Have there been additional provisions in the draft lease since being issued prior to the auction; if so, (a) what were those amendments and (b) when were the amendments made.

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

- (1) (a) The budget and outcomes for wages:

<b>Agency</b>	<b>(i) Full Year Budget 2012-13 (\$'000)</b>	<b>(i) Full Year Expenditure 2012-13 (\$'000)</b>	<b>(ii) Full Year Budget 2013-14* (\$'000)</b>	<b>(ii) YTD March 2014 Expenditure (\$'000)</b>
ACTAS	22,774	21,421	24,463	19,132
ACTF&R	33,178	31,741	33,383	24,163
ACTRFS	1,344	1,374	1,364	1,068
ACTSES	880	836	813	619

*\*Note: Include 2013-14 supplementary appropriation for revised wages parameters.*

- (b) Wages paid for overtime based on HR payroll system data:

	<b>(i) Overtime 2012-13 (\$'000)</b>	<b>(ii) Overtime 2013-14* (\$'000)</b>
ACTAS	1,629	1,040
ACTF&R	2,085	1,392
ACTRFS	139	130
ACTSES	54	17

*\*Note: YTD March 2014 total*

(c) Number of FTE Staff:

	(i) 2012-13 (June 2013)	(ii) 2013-14 (as at March 2014)
ACTAS	223.06	221.08
ACTF&R	354.46	353.46
ACTRFS	11.60	12.80
ACTSES	8.57	6.97

(d) refer to response at (2) below.

(2) Each agency is provided with an annual operating budget based on a staffing structure for the relevant financial year. Vacancies can occur at any point in time and vary due to staff movement for example in instances of long or short term leave or following a separation. These may be filled by the agency depending on operational requirements and available budget. Filling arrangements can include short term and temporary arrangements.

(3) The annual direct budget for each agency:

	(i) 2012-13 (\$'000)	(ii) 2013-14* (\$'000)
ACTAS	32,544	34,147
ACTF&R	44,255	45,023
ACTRFS	4,037	3,795
ACTSES	1,693	1,596

*\*Note: 2013-14 includes 2013-14 supplementary appropriation for revised wages parameters and excludes depreciation budget which is allocated in top level cost centres.*

This is direct budget only. It does not include other operational budgets and support services such as for Communications Centre Management, Fleet, Training, Risk and Planning Group, ICT Services, Media and Community Information, Executive and Business.

## **Capital Woodland and Wetlands Conservation Trust—management (Question No 270)**

**Ms Lawder** asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 6 May 2014:

- (1) What is the structure of the Capital Woodland and Wetlands Conservation Trust.
- (2) Who appoints the members of the Trust.
- (3) Are they considered to be board members from a legal/fiduciary perspective; if so, (a) does the Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) representative on the board understand their obligations with respect to being a board member, (b) how is this assured, eg are they members of the AICD or qualified in some way, and (c) how do they manage conflicts of interest between their role as a TAMS employee and as a board member.

- (4) Who appoints the members of the subsidiary entities for Jerrabomberra and Mulligans Flat and, if they are not appointed, how are they nominated and accepted to the board/committee.
- (5) What are the terms and conditions of all of these appointments.
- (6) In relation to the executive officer of the Trust (a) what entity appoints, pays and supervises the executive officer, (b) how much is the executive officer paid, and (c) under what conditions is he/she appointed/employed, eg common law contract, ACT Public Service (ACTPS), other, full-time, part-time, permanent, non-ongoing, casual.
- (7) If the executive officer is appointed/employed under the ACTPS (a) at what level is he/she appointed/employed, and (b) is he/she paid at the standard pay point(s) for that level; if not, how is their salary determined.
- (8) Does your Directorate have any involvement in the direction, supervision, payment or management of the Executive Officer.
- (9) What involvement and/or direction did you have, as the Minister, in the recent change in structure and operations of the Trust.
- (10) Is this Trust independent from government; if so, how did you influence the change of structure and operations.
- (11) How much money is currently held by this Trust?
- (12) What processes are in place to have the money held by trust split between Mulligans Flat and the Jerrabomberra Wetlands.
- (13) What tax concessions are held by the Trust and/or by the Jerrabomberra Wetlands and Mulligans Flat.
- (14) Is someone able to donate directly to Jerrabomberra Wetlands; if not, how are donations split between the two groups.
- (15) Is there a formal agreement between the Trust and the Directorate on the division of responsibility for operations or management practices at Mulligans Flat and the Jerrabomberra Wetlands; if so, what are the details of this agreement; if not, how are the responsibilities split and how are conflicts resolved between the entities.

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

- 1) The Capital Woodland and Wetlands Conservation Trust (the Trust) is an incorporated entity established under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991*. It is required to be comprised of a minimum of five members, at least one of which is an employee of the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate (TAMS). The current membership of the Association which administers the Trust is outlined below:

President:	Ms Alison Russell-French
Vice Presidents	Mr Warren Nicholls and Dr David Shorthouse
Treasurer	Mr David Bryant
Secretary	Mr David Bryant

Member	Mr Daniel Iglesias (TAMS member)
Member	Dr Aileen Power
Member	Mr Adam Stankevicius
Member	Assoc Prof Adrian Manning

Three alternates are identified to represent where members are unable to attend as follows:

Alternate Member for Mr Warren Nicholls	Mr Ian Lawrence
Alternate Member for Mr David Shorthouse	Ms Jenny Bounds
Alternate Member for Mr Daniel Iglesias	Mr Stephen Hughes

With the exception of ACT Government employees, membership of the Association is on a voluntary basis.

- 2) In keeping with section 7 (1) of the Articles of Association which governs the functioning of the Trust, trust membership is initiated by a nomination made by the Minister to the Trust. The Committee of the Trust must then approve or reject the nomination.
- 3) The Association operates in keeping with its Articles of Association (**Attachment A**) and are bound by the *Associations Incorporations Act 1991*.
  - (a) The TAMS member, as was the case for all other members, has been provided with a governance handbook and copy of the Articles of Association which outlines Members' responsibilities and source documents which can be referred to as necessary.
  - (b) The TAMS member is not a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.
  - (c) The TAMS member's role is to ensure the operation of the Trust is not inconsistent with the land management responsibility retained by Government, through TAMS, in both nature reserves. This is not seen as a conflict of interest.
- 4) The Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary and Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve Management Sub-committees are constituted as sub-committees of the Association pursuant to Section 22 of the Articles. The Chair of each sub-committee also sits on the Association. The Association considers and approves membership of each sub-committee based on the recommendation of each sub-committee chair.
- 5) Consistent with section 22 of the Articles. Note that all appointments are on a voluntary basis and that each sub-committee is currently reviewing its own Terms of Reference under the guidance of the Association.
- 6) The Trust employs a part-time (4 days a week) General Manager at the Senior Officer Grade A equivalent at its own expense. The Trust determined the pay point it required for this position.

The Trust also engages a Communications and Engagements Manager which reports to the General Manager. This position was previously known as the Executive Officer

position, and is currently 100% funded by the ACT Government till June 30, 2014. From 1 July 2014, the TAMS funding contribution will drop to 50% and from 1 July 2015 to 25%. From 1 July 2017 this position will be entirely funded by the Trust. The occupant derives a Senior Officer Grade C equivalent salary and is engaged through an ACT Government contract up to June 30 2014, after which time this position will also move to a contract administered by the Trust, with the appropriate proportion of costs billed to TAMS on a monthly basis.

- 7) Refer to 6)
- 8) No, apart from as detailed in (6).
- 9) My office, TAMS, the Trust and its sub-committees co-operatively participated in finalising a structure that would best deliver on the objectives of the Trust.
- 10) The Trust does not operate as an administrative unit of Government. It is an Incorporated Association operating in keeping with its obligations under the *Associations Incorporations Act 1991* and its Articles of Association which were first drafted by Government.

The structure of the Trust preserves a role for Government in two ways:

- i. Through the membership of the Association of a Senior Executive Service employee who executes their responsibilities as an Association member; and
  - ii. Through the Minister retaining the power to issue directions to the Association; nominate Association members; discipline members, approve sources of funding; require the submission of an annual business plan and approve alterations of the Articles of Association.
- 11) Trust funds under management total \$2,381,700.21 as at 31 March 2014.
  - 12) Disbursement of funds by the Trust are based on a merit based process whereby both Trust sub-committees propose initiatives to the Association for funding. All funding expenditure is approved by the Association.
  - 13) The Trust has recently been granted deductible gift recipient (DGR1) status from the Commonwealth, allowing donors to claim a tax deduction for funds donated to the Trust.
  - 14) A donor can choose to stipulate either reserve as beneficiary of their donation.
  - 15) Section 3 of the Trust Articles outlines the objects of the Trust. Inter alia it states the Trust:

Is established and must be maintained exclusively for public charitable purposes in Australia, being the purposes of providing money, property or benefits for:

- (a) Managing, recovering, conserving and enhancing the natural environments of the ACT with a particular focus on the Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve and / or the Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve; and
- (b) Supporting research, education, recreation and tourism activities related to woodland recovery in the ACT with a particular focus on the Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve and / or the Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve.



The Trust is intended to add value and complement the baseline land management work delivered in both reserves by TAMS, and would typically support activities that TAMS would not otherwise be funded to deliver. The Trust is currently liaising with TAMS to produce a Memorandum of Understanding to formalise each party's obligations and responsibilities.

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

### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—incidents (Question No 275)**

**Mr Wall** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 8 May 2014:

How many (a) black, (b) blue, (c) brown, (d) grey, (e) pink, (f) purple, and (g) red code incidents occurred at the Alexander Maconochie Centre, by month, between 1 January and 31 December 2013.

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

The following table outlines how many of each code occurred in each month during 2013:

Month	Black	Blue	Brown	Grey	Pink	Purple	Red
January	0	2	0	0	6	4	29
February	0	1	0	0	2	1	12
March	0	2	0	0	2	1	5
April	0	0	0	1	2	1	4
May	0	1	0	0	4	1	10
June	0	0	0	0	1	2	11
July	1	0	0	0	3	0	11
August	0	1	0	0	1	2	21
September	0	0	0	0	0	3	14
October	0	2	0	1	8	0	6
November	0	1	0	0	5	2	14
December	0	2	0	0	4	4	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>154</b>

A code red refers to fire. The number of code red calls is disproportionate; the high number of code reds is directly related to the number of detectors throughout the AMC. With 22 detainee kitchen areas in the cottages it is common that during the preparation of meals that the detectors become alarmed and a code red is called.

The instance of a code being called does not necessarily equate to an incident occurring, it can also mean that a situation has arisen where there is a risk of an incident.

### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—detainee classification (Question No 276)**

**Mr Wall** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 8 May 2014:

(1) What is the average length of time taken to determine an initial detainee classification.

- (2) On how many occasions did it take longer than 14 days to determine an initial classification between 1 January and 31 December 2013.
- (3) What is the average length of time taken to undertake the review of classification by the Sentence Planning Group.
- (4) On how many occasions did it take longer than 21 days to undertake a review of classification between 1 January and 31 December 2013.
- (5) What is the total number of appeals lodged by prisoners about classifications between 1 January and 31 December 2013.

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

- (1) All detainees, whether sentenced or being held on remand, are given an initial security classification and placement on admission to the AMC (that is, within the first 24 hours of arrival at the AMC).
- (2) Nil.
- (3) ACT Corrective Services does not record this data.

The classification of all sentenced detainees is reviewed, where practicable, within 21 days. Review is undertaken within this timeframe in the overwhelming majority of cases but delays may be encountered in undertaking a review of classification for a number of reasons, including:

- a. Detainee unavailability (Court appearance/visit/health appointment/etc);
- b. Operational restrictions impacting upon Sentence Planning Group meetings (e.g. lockdowns due to safety/security concerns);
- c. Detainees' mental or physical health requiring further stabilisation prior to review of classification.

Remand detainees remain on their initial classification unless there is a request for consideration into reviewing their classification. Otherwise remand detainees are reviewed six months following admission.

- (4) See answer to Question (3) above.
- (5) One. The low number of appeals is due in large part to the detainees' input and involvement in the Sentence Planning Group process.

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### **Alexander Maconochie Centre—drug testing (Question No 277)**

**Mr Wall** asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 8 May 2014:

- (1) What is the total number of drug tests by (a) urinalysis and (b) blood test conducted in the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC), by month, between 1 December 2011 and 31 March 2014.

- (2) In relation to those tests referred to in part (1), what was the number of tests conducted (a) as targeted testing, (b) as random testing, (c) as part of admission testing, (d) as part of rehabilitation programs, and (e) randomly.
- (3) For the tests indicated in part (2) how many returned a positive result for a controlled substance.

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

Please note that the following figures include the total number of tests conducted, including tests refused. Detainees who refuse to supply an 'Admissions' sample are disciplined for failing to comply with a direction.

- (1) The total number of drugs tests by (a) urinalysis and (b) blood test conducted in the AMC, by month, between 1 December 2011 and 31 March 2014.

Blood testing is not conducted on detainees.

Date	Urinalysis
Dec 2011	85
Jan 2012	55
Feb 2012	55
Mar 2012	76
Apr 2012	62
May 2012	81
Jun 2012	51
Jul 2012	70
Aug 2012	64
Sep 2012	61
Oct 2012	59
Nov 2012	70
Dec 2012	53
Jan 2013	50
Feb 2013	55
Mar 2013	88
Apr 2013	80
May 2013	142
Jun 2013	101
Jul 2013	73
Aug 2013	78
Sep 2013	85
Oct 2013	86
Nov 2013	67
Dec 2013	75
Jan 2014	55
Feb 2014	80
Mar 2014	57

- (2) In relation to those tests referred to in part (1), what was the number of tests conducted (a) as targeted testing, (b) as random testing, (c) as part of admission testing, (d) as part of rehabilitation programs, and (e) randomly.

Targeted Testing	617
Random Testing	185
Admission Testing	1,095
Part of Rehabilitation Programs	117
TOTAL	2,014

For the tests indicated in part (2) 1,167 returned a non-negative result for a controlled substance. 'Non-negative' is a term used in the relevant Australian Standard and means that there was the indication of the presence of a drug as identified on the test (as distinct from a 'positive' result which can only be derived from further testing to confirm the presence of a drug).

The high non-negative results reflect high usage in the community among offenders as detected at admission (77% of admission tests produced a non-negative result).

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### **Roads—Majura parkway (Question No 281)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 8 May 2014:

- (1) What is the current projected total cost of the Majura Parkway and surrounds project.
- (2) What portion of the total cost will be paid for by the (a) ACT Government and (b) Commonwealth Government and what amounts have already been expended.
- (3) How many formal variations to the project have occurred since the project was agreed to and what is the cost of each of those variations.
- (4) Of the amounts in part (3), what portion of each variation will be paid for by the (a) ACT Government and (b) Commonwealth Government.
- (5) What is the cost and distance of the entirely ACT-funded portion of the road that connects the Federal Highway to the jointly-funded (Commonwealth and ACT Governments) component of the Majura Parkway.
- (6) What portion of the cycle paths will be (a) on-road and (b) off-road.
- (7) In relation to part (6), what are the total lengths of the paths and what portion of each path will be paid for by the (a) ACT Government and (b) Commonwealth Government.
- (8) What northbound and southbound entry and exit access to the Majura Parkway will exist for (a) Majura Park and (b) the precinct incorporating IKEA.
- (9) What is the projected total amount the (a) ACT Government and (b) Commonwealth Government will spend on the Majura Parkway and associated infrastructure.
- (10) What is the projected completion date for the Parkway.

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

- (1) The current total projected cost of the Majura Parkway project is \$288 million (excluding GST). There is a separately identified and funded off road shared path project valued at \$8m. In addition, as a separate project, Economic Development Directorate has been allocated \$9.8m in the 2014/15 budget to provide an off-ramp to a new link road for Majura Park and Majura West (the precinct incorporating IKEA).
- (2) Commonwealth funding \$144 million (excluding GST); ACT Government \$144 million (excluding GST). As at 30 April 2014, a total of \$156 million has been expended. Funding for the \$8m off road shared path is allocated in the 2014/15 ACT budget.
- (3) There have been 84 construction variations on the project at the end of April 2014. A total of \$2.98 million has been spent to-date on variations.
- (4) The project has not been separated as Federal and State components. All project costs are shared equally by the ACT and Federal Governments.
- (5) The 11.5km project has not been separated as Federal and State components. All project costs have been jointly funded by the Federal and ACT Governments.
- (6) There will be on and off road cycle paths along the entire alignment of the Majura Parkway.
- (7) The on road cycle path forms part of the road related construction costs associated with the shared funding arrangement with the Federal Government. Funding for the \$8m off road shared path is allocated in the 2014/15 ACT budget.
- (8) Entry to and exit from both Majura Park and the precinct incorporating IKEA (Majura West) will be via a new interchange at Fairburn Avenue. This intersection will allow both northbound and southbound traffic to enter and exit the Majura Parkway. In addition northbound and southbound traffic will also be able to use the Tambreet Street interchange.

An additional entry to both Majura Park and Majura West will be available for southbound traffic on the Majura Parkway via an off ramp to a new link road that is planned to connect the Parkway to the Majura Road.

- (9) Refer to response (1) and (2).

- (10) June 2016.

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### **Government—ministerial travel (Question No 289)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 14 May 2014:

In relation to all ministerial travel since 16 May 2011, how many people travelled with the Minister/Member and at what cost, for each travel item, for (a) ministerial staff, (b) directorate staff and (c) spouse or family.

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

Answers to the member's questions are at Attachment A.

[See Ministerial Travel Reports at  
<http://www.parliament.act.gov.au/members/entitlement-reporting>]

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**Education—gifted and talented students  
(Question No 290)**

**Mr Doszpot** asked the Minister for Education and Training, upon notice, on 15 May 2014:

- (1) How many ACT public schools currently offer a Gifted and Talented program.
- (2) At what schools is such a program offered.
- (3) Over what class years are these classes offered.
- (4) How many (a) students and (b) teachers are involved in these programs.
- (5) What specialist training is offered to teachers to prepare them for teaching gifted and talented classes and what ongoing professional development is available for them.
- (6) What key performance indicators are used to assess the value and success of each of these programs in each school and class setting.
- (7) What are the selection criteria for students for these classes and are all children assessed for suitability.
- (8) If not all children are assessed for suitability, how are students identified for testing or selection.
- (9) What engagement is there with parents of children who are selected for these classes and can parents insist their child be included in such a program.

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

- 1) All ACT public schools are required to offer developmentally appropriate educational provisions and strategies for gifted and talented students. Under the ACT Education and Training Directorate's Gifted and Talented Students Policy, school principals are responsible for ensuring this provision. This may include a partnership with external agencies.
- 2) As above.
- 3) ACT public schools are responsible for meeting the educational needs of all gifted and talented students, regardless of the grade level.

- 4)
  - a. The Directorate does not collect specific data on the number of gifted and talented students in ACT public schools.
  - b. All teachers in ACT public schools engage in differentiating the curriculum to cater for the learning needs of all students.
- 5) The Gifted and Talented Education Professional Development Package for teachers, published by the UNSW Gifted Education Research Resource and Information Centre (GERRIC) was distributed to all schools in January 2014.

Since February 2014, to support implementation of the Policy, specialist professional learning to meet the needs of gifted and talented students has been provided to ACT teachers through sessions at the Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning.

Through the Teacher Scholarship program 15 teachers have completed the Certificate of Gifted Education since 2009.

The Directorate is currently finalising procurement of a three year professional development package to support implementation of the Gifted and Talented Students Policy which will deliver a series of 12 professional learning sessions from 2014/15 – 2016/17.

- 6) Schools monitor the achievement and progress of all students through the collection and analysis of school and system data including internal assessment and external testing such as NAPLAN. The Directorate does not undertake assessment of school based gifted and talented programs. Where required Individual Learning Plans (ILP) are put in place to further support the development of gifted and talented students. These plans are subject to regular review.
- 7) The Gifted and Talented Students Policy requires that schools in conjunction with their school boards determine agreed processes for the nomination and identification of gifted and talented students and the provision of developmentally appropriate educational strategies to meet the needs of their students. Specialised approaches may be considered in the identification process where students may be potentially disadvantaged due to individual circumstances. Schools collect evidence to accurately identify the gifts and talents of students using measures that may include:
  - Teacher or parent/carer checklists
  - Parent nomination
  - Psychological assessments
  - Self-identification
  - Interviews
  - Student work
  - Curriculum-based assessment and reporting
  - Educational history
- 8) School principals are responsible for ensuring there are established, effective and equitable processes and measures in place for the identification of gifted and talented students. In conjunction with the school board, principals incorporate specialised approaches, overseen by a school counsellor, in identification process where students may be potentially disadvantaged due to individual, cultural or special circumstances. The Directorate also encourages parents and carers to take an active role in the identification of gifted and talented children. Students can be nominated for consideration as gifted and talented at any time.

- 9) Parents and carers are important to the process of identifying and nurturing giftedness. A series of parent factsheets, including FAQs, was released in May 2014 to support the Gifted and Talented Students Policy. The factsheets assist parents to work in partnership with their school to meet the needs of their child. The Education and Training Directorate will continue to support parents of gifted and talented children through parent information sessions, updating of factsheets and the inclusion of updates on gifted and talented education in school newsletters. Parents and carers can request an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) to support the development of their gifted and talented student.
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### **Hospitals—modern decision support simulations (Question No 291)**

**Mr Hanson** asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 15 May 2014:

- (1) Given that many large complex organisations, including hospitals, now use software-based, system-wide simulations sometimes called modern decision support (MDS) that enable real management prediction, as distinct from forecasting, “what if” experimentation and analysis of reasons for actual and simulated outcomes, does The Canberra Hospital (TCH) use MDS; if so, (a) which MDS programs are in use, (b) which levels of management at TCH use those applications and (c) how are they used.
- (2) How is MDS integrated into decision-making processes at TCH.
- (3) Does any current MDS system at TCH support (a) demand management, (b) activity and resource control, (c) tactical and strategic planning, (d) staff allocation and staffing requirements, (e) budget and financial control and requirements, (f) risk management, (g) stores requirements and (h) response times to emergencies.
- (4) If MDS is not used at TCH, has the potential of this type of management tool been evaluated for the TCH; if so, which systems have been evaluated and with what outcome.

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

- (1) The Canberra Hospital (TCH) does not currently use any MDS systems.
  - (2) N/A
  - (3) N/A
  - (4) TCH evaluated a simulation modelling research proposal in late 2013. The proposal involved considerable cost and, given also that the hospital is currently undertaking Project Venturi - a three year project that will provide a whole of hospital approach to improving patient flow - it was decided not to proceed with the proposal.
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### **Government—contracts (Question No 293)**

**Mr Coe** asked the Minister for Economic Development, upon notice, on 15 May 2014  
(*redirected to the Treasurer*):



How many contracts were entered into by the ACT Government in the (a) 2012-13 and (b) 2013-14 to date, financial years to the value of (i) \$5 000 to \$10 000, (ii) \$10 000 to \$25 000, (iii) \$25 000 to \$50 000, (iv) \$50 000 to \$1 000,000 and (v) over \$1 000 000.

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

The information below is drawn from the ACT Government contracts register. The contracts register records details of all notifiable contracts, the threshold for which is \$25,000. Consequently, the contracts register does not hold information on contracts valued below \$25,000.

The contracts register records contracts for all Territory entities (as defined in Section 3 of the *Government Procurement Act 2001*), but does not encompass contracts entered into by other bodies such as Territory-owned Corporations.

Contract Value (\$)	2012-13	2013-14 (to 30 May 2014)
25,000 to less than 50,000	130	104
50,000 to less than 1,000,000	501	377
1,000,000 and over	114	72
<b>Total</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>553</b>

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### **Business, Tourism, Events and Sport Division—staff (Question No 296)**

**Mr Smyth** asked the Minister for Economic Development, upon notice, on 15 May 2014:

- (1) Can the Minister provide a current organisational chart of the Tourism, Events and Sport Division, including (a) organisational structure, (b) number of staff, full-time equivalent and headcount, (c) corresponding pay grades and (d) position titles.
- (2) When was the last time this Division underwent an organisational restructure and can the Minister identify changes made in relation to (a) organisational structure, (b) number of staff, full-time equivalent and headcount, (c) corresponding pay grades and (d) position titles.

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

- (1) Tourism, Events and Sport Division was replaced by the Business, Tourism, Events and Sport Division on 31 March 2014. The organisation structure is at Attachment A.

The Division includes Business Development (renamed to Innovation, Trade and Investment), Tourism (renamed to VisitCanberra), Events (Venue and Event Services) and Sport and Recreation Services.

As of May 2014, Business, Tourism, Events and Sport Division consisted of a headcount of 155 staff and full-time equivalent (FTE) staff of 139.16.

<b>Branch</b>	<b>Headcount</b>	<b>Total FTE</b>
Innovation, Trade and Investment	27	26.39
Executive	6	6
Sport and Recreation Services	49	46.27
Venue and Event Services	33	28.07
VisitCanberra	40	32.43
<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>139.16</b>

The number of staff full-time equivalent and headcount, corresponding pay grades and position titles for Business, Tourism, Events and Sport Division are listed below.

<b>Classification</b>	<b>(b) FTE</b>	<b>(b) Headcount</b>	<b>(c) Salary Range</b>	<b>(d) Position Titles</b>
<b>ASO2</b>	3.4	12	\$46,372 - \$51,422	Visitor Services Officer, CRVC Distribution Officer, CRVC
<b>ASO3</b>	4	4	\$52,818 - \$57,004	Retail Stock Coordinator, CRVC Reservation/volunteer Coordinator, CRVC Administration Assistant Operations Assistant
<b>ASO4</b>	7	7	\$58,870 - \$63,917	Administration Support Officer Events Assistant Partnership Development Officer PR and Media Visits Officer Digital Marketing & Social Media Officer Campaign Marketing Officer Digital Database Officer
<b>ASO5</b>	20.66	22	\$65,660 - \$69,623	Booking and Admin Support Program Officer Grants Officer Executive Assistant Athlete Services Officer Events Coordinator Program Officer Campaign Marketing Officer Client Liaison
<b>ASO6</b>	23.68	26	\$70,913 - \$81,460	Senior Project Officer Business Support Officer ACE Advisor Events Officer Communication Executive Senior Digital Development Officer Supervisor, CRVC Partnership Executive Venue Administration Officer Compliance & Safety Officer Membership & Conference Coordinator Event Production Coordinator

<b>CE</b>	5	5	\$164,787 - \$243,715	Director General Manager Executive Director Deputy Director-General
<b>GSO3/4</b>	4	4	\$40,973 - \$44,935	Grounds Officer
<b>GSO5/6</b>	2	2	\$45,647 - \$50,446	Grounds Officer
<b>GSO7</b>	2	2	\$52,078 - \$55,114	Plumber
<b>PO1</b>	2.91	3	\$49,452 - \$69,377	Strength and Conditioning Coach ACTAS/S&C Admin Support
<b>PO2</b>	3.4	4	\$70,913 - \$81,460	Head of Strength and Conditioning Sports Psychologist
<b>SOA</b>	8	8	\$123,208	Deputy Director, S&R Deputy Director, Tourism Senior Manager, Events Senior Manager, Venues Senior Manager
<b>SOB</b>	16	15	\$106,086 - \$119,426	Manager, Production and Delivery Manager, Strategy & Major Projects Manager, Marketing & Communications Group Marketing Manager Senior Manager, Events & Operations Project/Facility Manager Investment Facilitation Manager
<b>SOC</b>	25.11	29	\$89,786 - \$96,809	Assistant Manager Senior Officer Senior Officer, Major Projects & Govt Coordination Manager, Canberra & Region Visitors Centre Industry Development Manager Research and Consumer Insights Manager Business Support Manager PR & Media Services Manager Campaign Marketing Executive Digital Marketing & Creative Manager Venue Manager, Canberra Stadium Venue Manager, Manuka Oval Client Manager Venue Manager, Stromlo Forest Park Project Manager Assistant Manager Screen Investment Fund Manager
<b>SPOC</b>	1	1	\$89,786 - \$96,809	Manager, Performance Nutrition Officer

<b>SR</b>	4	4	\$46,372 - \$51,420	Sportsground Ranger
<b>TEO6</b>	1	1	\$70,913 - \$81,460	Senior Creative Services Officer
<b>TO2</b>	1	1	\$52,078 - \$59,939	Supervisor
<b>TO3</b>	3	3	\$61,148 - \$69,377	Management Officer Ground Manager, South
<b>TO4</b>	2	2	\$70,913 - \$81,460	Venue Technician
<b>Total</b>	<b>139.16</b>	<b>155</b>		

- (2) The last organisational restructure occurred in March 2014. The change involved the Business Development Branch (now Innovation, Trade and Investment) transferring from the Economic Development, Policy and Governance Division to the Business, Tourism, Events and Sports Division.

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

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### **Economic Development, Policy and Governance Division—staff (Question No 297)**

**Mr Smyth** asked the Minister for Economic Development, upon notice, on 15 May 2014:

- (1) Can the Minister provide a current organisational chart of the Economic Development, Policy and Governance Division, including (a) organisational structure, (b) number of staff, full-time equivalent and headcount, (c) corresponding pay grades and (d) position titles.
- (2) When was the last time this Division underwent an organisational restructure and can the Minister identify changes made in relation to (a) organisational structure, (b) number of staff, full-time equivalent and headcount, (c) corresponding pay grades and (d) position titles.

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

- (1) The Economic Development, Policy and Governance (EDPG) Division was devolved across the Land Development and Corporate, and Business, Tourism, Events and Sport Divisions on 31 March 2014.

The table below provides the changes that occurred within EDPG. The Headcount and FTE reflect May 2014 information.

<b>EDPG - Branches</b>	<b>Transferred to:</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>Headcount</b>
<b>Workforce and Governance</b>	Land Development and Corporate Division - Corporate Branch	12	12
<b>Communications</b>	Office of the Director-General / Chief Executive Officer	11	11

<b>EDPG – Branches</b>	<b>Transferred to:</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>Headcount</b>
<b>Ministerial, Cabinet and Policy</b>			
– Ministerial, Assembly and Cabinet Coordination	Office of the Director-General / Chief Executive Officer	5	5
– Policy	Land Development and Corporate Division – Policy, Projects and Legislation	10.76	11
<b>Business Development</b>	Business, Tourism, Events and Sport Division – Innovation, Trade and Investment	26.39	27
<b>Total</b>		<b>65.15</b>	<b>66</b>

- (2) The EDPG Division underwent an organisational restructure and was dissolved in March 2014, the information of which is provided above.

The number of staff full-time equivalent and headcount, corresponding pay grades and position titles for the staff identified in the response to question 1 are listed below.

	(b)	(b)	(c)	(d)
<b>Classification</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>Headcount</b>	<b>Salary Range</b>	<b>Position Titles</b>
<b>ASO1</b>	1	1	\$40,974 - \$45,283	Courier
<b>ASO4</b>	2	2	\$58,870 - \$63,917	Business Support Officer
<b>ASO5</b>	4	4	\$65,660 - \$69,623	Executive Assistant Policy Officer Project Officer
<b>ASO6</b>	9.68	10	\$70,913 - \$81,460	Project Officer
<b>CE</b>	3	3	\$164,787 - \$187,557	Director Executive Director
<b>SOA</b>	11.76	12	\$123,208	Senior Manager
<b>SOB</b>	11	11	\$106,086 - \$119,426	Governance Manager HR Manager Senior Project Manager Manager Investment Facilitation Manager
<b>SOC</b>	22.71	23	\$89,786 - \$96,809	Assistant Manager Assistant Manager Screen Investment Fund Project Manager Senior Policy Officer
<b>Total</b>	<b>65.15</b>	<b>66</b>		

### **Asbestos—loose-fill insulation (Question No 298)**

**Mr Smyth** asked the Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations, upon notice, on 15 May 2014:

- (1) How many homes in the ACT are currently affected by residual loose-fill asbestos fibres.
- (2) How many representations has the Government received from homeowners affected by loose-fill asbestos fibres in this financial year, including (a) date of representation, (b) suburb of affected house, (c) support/advice provided by Government and (d) outcome.
- (3) Can the Minister, for each financial year since 2003-04, provide the number of representations made to the Government by homeowners affected by loose-fill asbestos fibres, including (a) date of representation, (b) suburb of affected house, (c) support/advice provided by Government and (d) outcome.
- (4) When did the Government commence issuing affected homeowners notices regarding loose-fill asbestos insulation and can the Minister provide the dates of when loose-fill asbestos insulation notices were mailed to affected homeowners over the last two decades including (a) date of notice, (b) number of homeowners notified and (c) corresponding suburbs.
- (5) What measures are there to ensure that tenants and tradespeople are made aware of Mr Fluffy homes.

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

- (1) 1049 letters were sent to homes that were part of the 1988-1993 loose-fill asbestos insulation removal program in February 2014.
- (2) Between 18 February and 14 May 2014, there have been 123 inquiries or contacts to government through Canberra Connect.

Callers are often transferred to various directorates for further assistance and not required to provide their name or address, nor are the specific details centrally held if they are provided.

Callers are also advised that additional information is available at [www.asbestos.act.gov.au](http://www.asbestos.act.gov.au) where fact sheets on loose-fill asbestos can be found.

I am not prepared to authorise the use of resources needed to provide the specific information required to answer the Member's remaining questions.

- (3) I am not prepared to authorise the use of resources needed across directorates to provide the information required to answer the Member's questions.
- (4) Information is contained in the property building file – this has been in place since removal was undertaken on the home between 1989-1992.

A letter was sent to affected homeowners in 1993 at the end of the removal program.

A letter was sent to affected homeowners in 2005.

Information has been specifically included in a lease conveyancing inquiry document for a property since 2005.

1049 letters were sent in 18 February 2014.

(5) The Government will soon consider a package of measures to enhance the current asbestos management regime, including a range of recommendations from the Asbestos Regulators Forum. The recommendations include improvements to measures relating to information and disclosure of affected homes to tenants and tradespeople. Under the current regime:

- a homeowner is required to provide any asbestos assessment report for a property to tenants and tradespeople
- an application for a building approval must include an asbestos removal control plan
- homeowners have duties under section 23 of the *Dangerous Substances Act 2004* to take all reasonable steps to minimise the risks from dangerous substances, including asbestos
- tenants and tradespeople may seek access to a building file, with permission from the owner or their representative (and relevant information is included in an application for a building approval)
- all workers must be provided with appropriate training, this includes all workers who may come into contact with asbestos – in particular all workers in the construction industry
- a comprehensive licensing regime is in place for workers who remove, assess and make recommendations in relation to asbestos
- recent letters were sent to residents (including tenants) of affected homes
- more information is available at [www.asbestos.act.gov.au](http://www.asbestos.act.gov.au) .

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### **Parking—Weston (Question No 299)**

**Mrs Jones** asked the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, upon notice, on 4 June 2014:

- (1) What plans are in place to increase the number of car parking spaces at the Weston Group Centre.
- (2) How many additional car parking spaces will be provided and when.
- (3) Where will the additional car parking spaces be located precisely.

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

The Weston Group Centre Master Plan is responding to demand for additional parking in the centre over time.

The 2014/15 budget includes \$500,000 for the construction of approximately 80 car parking spaces at the Weston Group Centre. A feasibility study is being undertaken to finalise designs for the additional spaces. Construction work will commence by June 2015.

The additional car parks are planned to be located on the east side of Liardet Street and the southern section of Dillon Close.

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## Housing—rates (Question No 300)

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 5 June 2014:

- (1) Assuming the Unimproved Value remains the same, what would the current rates, and 2014-2015 rates, be for the sample properties with the following attributes:

Suburb	Address	Size (m <sup>2</sup> )	2013-14 Unimproved Value
Amaroo	Shoalhaven Ave	604	\$ 293,000
Aranda	Bandjalong Crescent	718	\$ 428,000
Belconnen	Cabena Court	267	\$ 266,000
Bonner	Mabo Boulevard	774	\$ 277,000
Bruce	Crisp Circuit	812	\$ 465,000
Bruce	Jaeger Circuit	743	\$ 496,000
Bruce	Lampard Circuit	366	\$ 322,000
Casey	Overall Avenue	610	\$ 264,000
Charnwood	Bettington Circuit	633	\$ 285,000
Cook	Lyttleton Crescent	909	\$ 375,000
Crace	Chance Street	450	\$ 227,000
Dunlop	Lance Hill Ave	510	\$ 221,000
Evatt	Clancy Street	716	\$ 290,000
Florey	Ratcliffe Crescent	700	\$ 315,000
Flynn	Spalding Steert	985	\$ 292,000
Forde	Doris Turner Street	558	\$ 231,000
Franklin	Oodgeroo Avenue	546	\$ 287,000
Fraser	Bingley Crescent	936	\$ 315,000
Giralang	Chuculba Crescent	741	\$ 285,000
Hall	Alexandra Street	1289	\$ 480,000
Harrison	Nullabor Avenue	777	\$ 298,000
Hawker	Murrarji Street	826	\$ 379,000
Higgins	Fulagar Crescent	911	\$ 316,000
Holt	Beaurepaire Crescent	685	\$ 261,000
Kaleen	Maribyrnong Ave	287	\$ 321,000
Macgregor	Osburn Drive	824	\$ 243,000
Macquarie	Lachlan Street	811	\$ 380,000
McKellar	Dumas Street	777	\$ 476,000
Melba	Grainger Circuit	748	\$ 294,000
Ngunnawal	Yarrowonga Street	386	\$ 203,000
Nicholls	Kelleway Avenue	893	\$ 339,000
Page	Petterd Street	821	\$ 331,000
Palmerston	Grampians Street	735	\$ 294,000
Scullin	Ross Smith Crescent	884	\$ 290,000
Spence	Baddeley Crescent	862	\$ 283,000
Weetangera	Shumack Street	826	\$ 379,000
West Macgregor	Macfarlane Burnet Avenue	600	\$ 244,000

- (2) What were the rates for the previous three financial years for the properties listed in part (1), assuming the Unimproved Value remained the same throughout.



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

<b>Average Unimproved Land Value</b>	<b>2010-11 Rates Charges</b>	<b>2011-12 Rates Charges</b>	<b>2012-13 Rates Charges</b>	<b>2013-14 Rates Charges</b>	<b>2014-15 Rates Charges</b>
<b>\$203,000</b>	\$1,073.22	\$1,063.59	\$1,056.61	\$1,143.67	\$1,246.31
<b>\$221,000</b>	\$1,125.46	\$1,112.67	\$1,113.06	\$1,202.01	\$1,310.59
<b>\$227,000</b>	\$1,142.87	\$1,129.03	\$1,131.87	\$1,221.46	\$1,332.02
<b>\$231,000</b>	\$1,154.48	\$1,139.94	\$1,144.42	\$1,234.42	\$1,346.30
<b>\$243,000</b>	\$1,189.30	\$1,172.67	\$1,182.05	\$1,273.31	\$1,389.15
<b>\$244,000</b>	\$1,192.21	\$1,175.39	\$1,185.18	\$1,276.55	\$1,392.72
<b>\$261,000</b>	\$1,241.54	\$1,221.75	\$1,238.50	\$1,331.65	\$1,453.43
<b>\$264,000</b>	\$1,250.25	\$1,229.93	\$1,247.90	\$1,341.37	\$1,464.14
<b>\$266,000</b>	\$1,256.05	\$1,235.39	\$1,254.18	\$1,347.86	\$1,471.29
<b>\$277,000</b>	\$1,287.97	\$1,265.38	\$1,288.67	\$1,383.51	\$1,510.57
<b>\$283,000</b>	\$1,305.38	\$1,281.75	\$1,307.49	\$1,402.95	\$1,531.99
<b>\$285,000</b>	\$1,311.19	\$1,287.20	\$1,313.76	\$1,409.44	\$1,539.14
<b>\$287,000</b>	\$1,316.99	\$1,292.65	\$1,320.03	\$1,415.92	\$1,546.28
<b>\$290,000</b>	\$1,325.70	\$1,300.83	\$1,329.44	\$1,425.64	\$1,556.99
<b>\$292,000</b>	\$1,331.50	\$1,306.29	\$1,335.71	\$1,432.12	\$1,564.13
<b>\$293,000</b>	\$1,334.40	\$1,309.02	\$1,338.85	\$1,435.36	\$1,567.70
<b>\$294,000</b>	\$1,337.31	\$1,311.74	\$1,341.98	\$1,438.60	\$1,571.27
<b>\$298,000</b>	\$1,348.91	\$1,322.65	\$1,354.53	\$1,451.57	\$1,585.56
<b>\$315,000</b>	\$1,398.25	\$1,369.01	\$1,416.84	\$1,516.19	\$1,657.01
<b>\$316,000</b>	\$1,401.15	\$1,371.74	\$1,420.58	\$1,520.07	\$1,661.29
<b>\$321,000</b>	\$1,415.66	\$1,385.37	\$1,439.26	\$1,539.45	\$1,682.73
<b>\$322,000</b>	\$1,418.56	\$1,388.10	\$1,442.99	\$1,543.32	\$1,687.01
<b>\$331,000</b>	\$1,444.68	\$1,412.64	\$1,476.62	\$1,578.21	\$1,725.60
<b>\$339,000</b>	\$1,467.90	\$1,434.46	\$1,506.50	\$1,609.21	\$1,759.89
<b>\$375,000</b>	\$1,572.37	\$1,532.63	\$1,641.00	\$1,748.75	\$1,914.23
<b>\$379,000</b>	\$1,583.98	\$1,543.54	\$1,655.94	\$1,764.25	\$1,931.37
<b>\$380,000</b>	\$1,586.88	\$1,546.26	\$1,659.68	\$1,768.13	\$1,935.66
<b>\$428,000</b>	\$1,726.17	\$1,677.16	\$1,839.01	\$1,954.18	\$2,141.44
<b>\$465,000</b>	\$1,833.55	\$1,778.06	\$1,983.24	\$2,104.13	\$2,308.85
<b>\$476,000</b>	\$1,865.47	\$1,808.06	\$2,028.74	\$2,151.56	\$2,362.45
<b>\$480,000</b>	\$1,877.08	\$1,818.96	\$2,045.28	\$2,168.81	\$2,381.94
<b>\$496,000</b>	\$1,923.51	\$1,862.60	\$2,111.46	\$2,237.80	\$2,459.91

### **Environment—former petrol station sites (Question No 302)**

**Mrs Jones** asked the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, upon notice, on 5 June 2014:

- (1) When is the statutory Site Audit Statement for the former petrol station sites in Watson and Campbell due to be received.
- (2) If remediation on the Campbell site is indeed already complete, (a) when will development commence, and (b) what is the expected completion date.

- (3) When will development commence on the Watson site and what is the expected completion date.

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

- (1) The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has been advised by Shell Australia that the Site Audit Statement for the former Shell Campbell site is expected to be finalised in the latter part of 2014. The consultant for the developer of the Watson petrol station site advises that a Site Audit Statement cannot be issued until the completion of building works at this site, due to the nature of contamination and the mitigation measures that must be built into the building structure.
- (2) As advised in my answer to Question No 282 remediation to soil is complete at the Campbell petrol station site. However, additional assessment into whether groundwater remediation is required at the site is ongoing. It is anticipated that this site will be sold for redevelopment on the completion of all required remediation activity. Therefore commence and complete timeframes for the redevelopment of the Campbell site are unknown.
- (3) Whilst a decision for the lessee, building works are expected to commence at the Watson petrol station site later this year with completion of construction and issuance of the Site Audit Statement in the latter half of 2015. Occupancy of the site is then subject to the EPA's endorsement of the findings of the Site Audit Statement indicating that the site is suitable for the 'as built' uses.

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### **Environment—former petrol station sites (Question No 303)**

**Mrs Jones** asked the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, upon notice, on 5 June 2014:

- (1) Which of the former petrol station sites in Braddon, Griffith, Higgins, Lyneham, Narrabundah, Watson and Tuggeranong have ground water remediation issues which are still being resolved.
- (2) Which of these sites still has hydrocarbon (PSH) product that must be removed before remediation can be completed.
- (3) What is the cost of remediation for a site which has ground water issues.
- (4) What criteria must be met to ensure that these sites are completed by the timeframes outlined in the answer to Question No 283 which I received on 4 June 2014.

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

- (1) All of the sites listed in your question have groundwater remediation issues which are being resolved.
- (2) EPA records indicate that all of the sites listed are currently free from phase separated hydrocarbon (PSH) product. The service station sites in question are however still impacted by dissolved phase hydrocarbons.

It is important to reiterate, that due to the complex nature of the ACT's geology, PSH can reoccur as hydrocarbons "smear" from the surrounding rock and soils back into groundwater as groundwater levels rise and fall.

The Environmental Consultant, in liaison with the Independent Auditor, determines the monitoring requirements in order to demonstrate that PSH has been adequately removed and not reoccurring.

- (3) The cost of remediation of groundwater would vary greatly depending on the type and level of impact and the local groundwater environment. Remediation is undertaken by the polluter or owner of the sites. This commercial information is not provided to the Government, however it is understood remedial cost can be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.
- (4) The primary criterion which must be met for all audited sites is that on the basis of the works undertaken the independent accredited Auditor and the EPA is satisfied that the site is suitable, from a contamination perspective, for the proposed development and that any residual contamination does not pose an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment.

Other criteria include the removal of PSH product and compliance with groundwater assessment criteria taken from the nationally approved Assessment of Site Contamination National Environment Protection Measure 1999 as amended in 2013.

It should be noted that clean up levels for hydrocarbon contamination can vary greatly from site to site. The level of remediation required will depend on a number of factors including: the type of development being proposed, for example the requirements for residential are far more stringent than for industrial uses; the type of development (i.e. does it include enclosed basements); the risk the residual contamination poses to the surrounding environment and whether mitigation measures are proposed in building construction to reduce the risk from residual contamination that may be present.

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### **Environment—former petrol station sites (Question No 304)**

**Mrs Jones** asked the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, upon notice, on 5 June 2014:

- (1) What remediation process was used on the former Rivett Petrol Station site.
- (2) When did the remediation process begin.
- (3) When was remediation of the site completed.
- (4) After the auction on 5 June 2014, what is the time frame for the new lessee to have a development application lodged.
- (5) What is the standard completion time frame for a development after approval of a development application.

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

- (1) As groundwater at the site did not require remediation, only impacts to soils were remediated. The soil impacts were bioremediated (the use of microbes) on-site using EPA approved methods prior to the soil being disposed of off-site to EPA licensed facilities.
  - (2) Remedial works at the former Rivett service station site commenced in 2005.
  - (3) Remedial works including a Human Health and Environment Risk Assessment for the site were completed in 2011 prior to finalisation of the statutory site audit in 2012.
  - (4) The Crown lease does not include timeframes for development of the site. The Crown lease was granted on 26 February 2013. If the Crown lease is not used for the purpose for which it was granted, ESDD may commence compliance action against the lessee.
  - (5) The standard completion time frame for a development after approval of a development application is to complete the development two years after the date of the commencement of the development.
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### **Crime—car tyre slashing (Question No 305)**

**Mrs Jones** asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 5 June 2014:

What police resources are allocated to catching the person responsible for tyre slashing in Narrabundah and Griffith.

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

ACT Policing has dedicated significant resources and undertaken specific operations in response to reports of tyre slashing offences, which have occurred over an extended period of time, in the Narrabundah and Griffith areas.

On 14 April 2014, Station Sergeant Andrew Bailey, Officer-in-Charge of Woden Police Station, provided your office with a personal briefing about ACT Policing's on-going activities and investigations into reports of tyre slashing offences in the Narrabundah and Griffith areas. Due to on-going policing operations and investigations, full details of the police operations could not be disclosed more publically so as not to interfere with police investigations.

On 14 June 2014, a 68yr old male was apprehended by ACT Policing following a lengthy police operation and investigation. ACT Policing executed a search warrant on the man's home and a number of evidentiary items were seized. The man was arrested and taken to Woden Police Station where he was later released after interview. It is anticipated that the man will be summonsed to face the ACT Magistrates Court at a later date. It should be noted that the apprehension of this man strictly relates to only one specific incident of vehicle tyre damage.

This apprehension of the male was reported via a police media release.

Police suspect this incident may be linked to other incidents of a similar nature in this area, and police investigations are continuing.

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## Questions without notice taken on notice

### ACT Emergency Services—funding

**Mr Corbell** (*in reply to a question by Mr Hanson on Tuesday, 3 June 2014*): The Memorandum of Understanding for the Provision of Fire Services to the Commonwealth was signed on 7 June 2013.

### Asbestos—removal

**Mr Corbell** (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mr Smyth on Wednesday, 14 May 2014*): Between 18 February and 14 May 2014, there have been 123 inquiries or contacts to government through Canberra Connect.

### ACTION bus service—airport

**Mr Rattenbury** (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mr Coe on Wednesday, 14 May 2014*): Senior staff from the Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) Directorate met on several occasions with a private operator that had raised some concerns about the impact of the Centenary Loop Route 100 service on their business. Those discussions included ways in which TAMS could assist the operator.

### Disability services—autism spectrum disorder

**Ms Burch** (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Mr Doszpot on Wednesday, 4 June 2014*): To date, Governance and Financial Management Packages worth \$20,000 each have been provided to fifteen organisations, as follows:

TADACT	Southside Community Services
Mental Health Foundation ACT	CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn
Darryl's Den	Community Connections
Karralika	Barnardos Australia
Richmond Fellowship ACT	Anglicare
Volunteering ACT	Havelock Housing Association
Community Options	Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT
The Deaf Society of NSW	

There are Forty Governance and Financial Management Packages available and expressions of interest will be accepted until 31 July 2014.

These packages offer tailored professional assistance to develop organisational financial management capacity, governance arrangements and business planning in the NDIS context.

Expressions of interest for Business Improvement Packages worth \$50,000 each have closed and providers will be notified of the outcome in the next two weeks.

### **Emergency services—alleged bullying**

**Mr Corbell** (*in reply to a supplementary question by Ms Lawder on Tuesday, 6 May 2014*): I can confirm that as at 4 June 2014 there were no other reports of bullying among staff being investigated in ACT Fire and Rescue Service.

### **ACT Fire and Rescue Service—alleged bullying**

**Mr Corbell** (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mr Smyth on Tuesday, 6 May 2014*): Specific details of the incidents investigated are of a private and confidential nature relating to individual employees.

The review into Human Resource matters within ACT Fire and Rescue was not intended to be an investigation into any particular individual rather an assessment of process and practice and confirmation that responses were sufficient and to provide recommendations on where matters can be improved.

### **Disability services—transition schedule**

**Ms Burch** (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Mr Wall on Wednesday, 6 August 2014*): In response to the Member's questions, I can inform the Assembly that nine people scheduled to phase in the first quarter, have an agreed plan.

For privacy reasons, I will not go into any detail on specific cases, as there are very small numbers, and individuals would be easily identified. Therapy ACT will continue to support their clients through the NDIA planning process. Families have commenced their planning conversations with the NDIA for their children, but have not yet developed an approved plan. Therapy ACT has not been provided with names/numbers of those who have commenced planning.

The NDIA Quarterly Reports to the Disability Reform Council will provide the relevant evidence to measure progress of the ACT NDIS trial. I plan to report then after following the release of each NDIA Quarterly Report.