

## Amin, Raouf

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**From:** Eyers, Tom  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 September 2013 10:53 AM  
**To:** Amin, Raouf  
**Cc:** Scanes, Lynda; Wahren, Lee-Anne; Schofield, Karen  
**Subject:** FW: Strategic Bushfire Management Plan  
**Attachments:** 20130917111623342.pdf

Hi Raouf

Please find attached a possible notice of motion for private member's business tomorrow, and it might be worth drafting two speeches for this motion as soon as possible because if it's not listed tomorrow it will be in October.

Kind regards

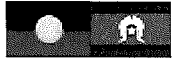
**Tom Eyers** | A/g Assembly Liaison Officer | Ministerial Support Unit

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*Ministerial and Business Information | Governance Branch | Justice and Community Safety Directorate  
Level 9 12 Moore Street, Canberra | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT | Phone 02 6207 6010 | Fax 02 62070514 |  
[tom.eyers@act.gov.au](mailto:tom.eyers@act.gov.au)*



JACS acknowledges the traditional custodians of the ACT, the Ngunnawal people. JACS acknowledges and respects their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region



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**From:** Balaretnaraja, Ash  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 September 2013 10:46 AM  
**To:** Wahren, Lee-Anne; Warren, Prue; Eyers, Tom  
**Cc:** Ng, Daniel  
**Subject:** Strategic Bushfire Management Plan

Good morning -

Attached is a notice of motion from Mr. Smyth which may be listed for private member's business tomorrow.

Confirmation of inclusion on tomorrow's program will be advised as soon as possible.

Thanks

Ash BalaretnaRaja | Manager - Government Business Coordination  
**Phone: 6205 0543** | Fax: 6205 1093 | [ash.balaretnaraja@act.gov.au](mailto:ash.balaretnaraja@act.gov.au)  
**Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate** | ACT Government  
Level 5 Canberra Nara Centre | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | [www.act.gov.au](http://www.act.gov.au)

2

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE  
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

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**NOTICE OF MOTION**

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Brendan Smyth: I give notice that I shall move –

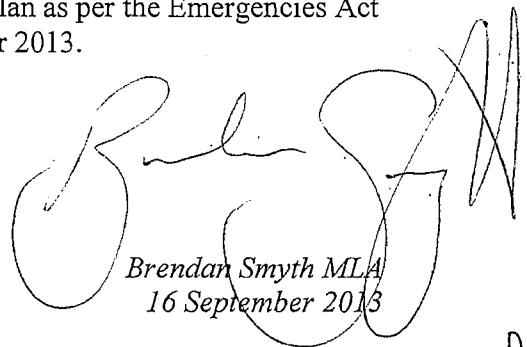
That this Assembly

1. Notes

- a. Section 72(3) of the *Emergencies Act 2004* requires the Minister must make a strategic bushfire management plan for the ACT after considering a draft plan from the Commissioner.
- b. Section 74(2)(k) of the *Emergencies Act 2004* states that the plan must have: 'a statement of resources needed to meet the objectives of the plan.'
- c. Recommendation 2 (Chapter 3) in the Auditor-General's Bushfire Preparedness Report No. 5 /2013, identified the Government's failure to comply with the Emergencies Act 2004 to explicitly state all resources to meet the objectives of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan.
- d. The Justice and Community Safety Directorate's agreement to Recommendation 2 (Chapter 3) of the Bushfire Preparedness Report.
- e. The Minister's reaffirmation on 8 August 2013 regarding Recommendation 2 (Chapter 3) of the Bushfire Preparedness Report that the 'Government will not be releasing these papers'.
- f. The Government's repeated refusal to disclose the Territory's requirement and capability for bushfire management—citing that such information is 'not considered appropriate for public release'—in direct contradiction to the Emergencies Act 2004.

2. Calls on the Government to

- a. Release and make explicit all resources needed to meet the objectives of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan as per the Emergencies Act 2004 by the last sitting day of November 2013.



Brendan Smyth MLA  
16 September 2013

received 10.04~  
17/9/13  
T

**Amin, Raouf**

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**From:** Evers, Tom  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 September 2013 11:58 AM  
**To:** Amin, Raouf  
**Subject:** RE: Strategic Bushfire Management Plan

Hi Raouf

I've just allocated the TRIM record to yourself.

Kind regards

Tom

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**From:** Amin, Raouf  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 September 2013 11:54 AM  
**To:** Evers, Tom  
**Cc:** Scanes, Lynda; Markham, Luke  
**Subject:** RE: Strategic Bushfire Management Plan

Could you pls create a trim record for me?  
 Thanks,  
 Raouf

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**From:** Evers, Tom  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 September 2013 10:53 AM  
**To:** Amin, Raouf  
**Cc:** Scanes, Lynda; Wahren, Lee-Anne; Schofield, Karen  
**Subject:** FW: Strategic Bushfire Management Plan

Hi Raouf

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Kind regards

**Tom Evers** | A/g Assembly Liaison Officer | Ministerial Support Unit

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 Level 9 12 Moore Street, Canberra | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT | Phone 02 6207 6010 | Fax 02 62070514 |  
[tom.evers@act.gov.au](mailto:tom.evers@act.gov.au)*



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**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 September 2013 10:46 AM

**To:** Wahren, Lee-Anne; Warren, Prue; Evers, Tom  
**Cc:** Ng, Daniel  
**Subject:** Strategic Bushfire Management Plan

Good morning -

Attached is a notice of motion from Mr. Smyth which may be listed for private member's business tomorrow.

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Ash BalaretnaRaja | Manager - Government Business Coordination  
**Phone: 6205 0543** | Fax: 6205 1093 | [ash.balaretnaraja@act.gov.au](mailto:ash.balaretnaraja@act.gov.au)  
**Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate** | ACT Government  
Level 5 Canberra Nara Centre | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | [www.act.gov.au](http://www.act.gov.au)

**Amin, Raouf**

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**From:** Wahren, Lee-Anne  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 September 2013 1:53 PM  
**To:** Casimir, Amanda; Ferguson, David; Field, Julie; Greenland, Karen; Whittaker, Leone; McIntosh, Andrew; Amin, Raouf; ACT-MOS-Ministerial@afp.gov.au  
**Cc:** Booth, Brett; Ng, Daniel; Eysers, Tom; Warren, Prue; Schofield, Karen; Krajina, Danielle  
**Subject:** Order of PMB for Wednesday 18 September/Thursday 19 September  
**Attachments:** Order of PMB #10 17-19 September 2013.docx

**Importance:** High

Hi All –

Please find appended the Order for Private Members Business tomorrow.

Please note that both Notices of Motion: (Bushfire Preparedness and Alcohol Crime Targeting Team) will occur tomorrow.

Also the Fair Trading Fuel Prices and the ADJR Amendment Bill will be debated tomorrow.

If you are providing input to a line area, please be timely and get the input in by COB today (if not earlier).

If you are completing any debate speeches, please advise me when I am likely to see these for clearance.

Kind regards

Lee-Anne Wahren PSM | Cabinet Liaison Officer

**Phone 02 62070542** | Fax 02 62070514 |

**Ministerial Services Unit** | Justice and Community Safety Directorate | **ACT Government**

Physical Address | 12 Moore Street Canberra | Mail Address | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | [www.jacs.act.gov.au](http://www.jacs.act.gov.au)




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**From:** Balaretnaraja, Ash  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 September 2013 1:40 PM  
**To:** #CMCD, ALO Network; #CMTD, Assembly Business  
**Subject:** Order of PMB for Wednesday 18 September/Thursday 19 September

Good afternoon,

Please find attached the Order of Private Members Business for this week.

Regards,  
 Ash

Ash BalaretnaRaja | Manager - Government Business Coordination

**Phone: 6205 0543** | Fax: 6205 1093 | [ash.balaretnaraja@act.gov.au](mailto:ash.balaretnaraja@act.gov.au)

**Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate** | ACT Government

Level 5 Canberra Nara Centre | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | [www.act.gov.au](http://www.act.gov.au)

No: 10/8

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To : **Mr Brendan Smyth MLA  
Mr Mick Gentleman MLA  
Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA**

From : **Mr Tom Duncan – Clerk**

CC : **Madam Speaker, Mr Ash Balaretnaraja,  
Ms Celeste Italiano, Ms Anne Shannon**

File No : **09/0076**

Date : **17 September 2013**

Subject : **STANDING COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND PROCEDURE  
– ORDER OF PRIVATE MEMBERS’ BUSINESS AND ASSEMBLY  
BUSINESS AND EXECUTIVE MEMBERS BUSINESS**

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**The order of Private Members’ business for Wednesday, 18 September and for Assembly Business Thursday, 19 September, and Executive Members Business as agreed to by the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure is as follows:**

**Tuesday, 18 September 2013**

### **PRIVATE MEMBERS’ BUSINESS**

#### **Notices**

**1 MR WALL:** To move—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
  - (a) the definitive language used by the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development when awarding licences to two new large scale solar developments on 19 August 2013, “two new solar farms will be developed in Canberra as a result of the Solar Auction process”;
  - (b) a site opposite Uriarra Village at Coree was chosen for a seven megawatt development; and
  - (c) residents of Uriarra were not aware the site opposite the village was being considered for a large scale solar development until after the announcement was made; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
  - (a) consider and acknowledge the overwhelming sentiment of the community of Uriarra Village to relocate the large scale solar project away from the village;

- (b) ensure the project does not proceed at the current location;
- (c) consult with the proponent to identify an alternate site that will not significantly impact on a residential area; and
- (d) ensure call-in powers are not used to progress the large scale solar development opposite Uriarra Village. (*Notice given 17 September 2013. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on within 8 sitting weeks – standing order 125A*).

**2 MR GENTLEMAN:** To move—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
  - (a) the importance of technology in driving innovation in the ACT economy;
  - (b) that supporting and encouraging technological innovation is essential to growing and diversifying the ACT economy;
  - (c) that the ACT Government is currently seeking Canberrans' views on how to make Canberra a world leading digital city that will lead to the development of a Digital Canberra Action Plan;
  - (d) that technology supports every sector in our community, including business, health, education, transport, community services and sustainability; and
  - (e) that faster broadband, especially the National Broadband Network, encourages digital literacy and innovation in households and businesses;
- (2) further notes:
  - (a) that NICTA, Australia's Information Communications Technology (ICT) Research Centre of Excellence, is Australia's largest organisation dedicated to ICT research and its Canberra Research Laboratory is undertaking world leading and world renowned ICT research activities;
  - (b) the innovative and important work undertaken by NICTA's Canberra Research Laboratory and its contribution towards shaping an innovative and diverse ACT economy;
  - (c) the ACT Government was a founding member of NICTA, and has provided sustained and significant funding and in-kind support to NICTA;
  - (d) that NICTA has a staff of 55 full-time researchers and 50 PhD students who are working to develop technologies that will meet the current and future needs of Canberra and the nation;
  - (e) the close collaboration between NICTA, the ACT Government and local universities, including establishing a number of projects where NICTA's advanced ICT expertise can add value to the issues the ACT Government faces as a service deliverer; and
  - (f) that the proposal to cut \$42 million in funding for NICTA over two years, which was announced by the new Commonwealth Government before the federal election, will substantially impact NICTA's capacity to continue undertaking research and development; and
- (3) calls on the Assembly to:
  - (a) support the ACT Government's continued funding and support for NICTA;

- (b) lobby the new Commonwealth Government not to implement the proposed funding cuts; and
- (c) lobby the new Commonwealth Government to maintain and/or increase funding for NICTA. (*Notice given 17 September 2013. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on within 8 sitting weeks – standing order 125A*).

**3 MR SMYTH:** To move—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
  - (a) section 72(3) of the *Emergencies Act 2004* requires the Minister must make a strategic bushfire management plan for the ACT after considering a draft plan from the Commissioner;
  - (b) section 74(2)(k) of the *Emergencies Act 2004* states that the plan must have “a statement of resources needed to meet the objectives of the plan”;
  - (c) recommendation 2 (Chapter 3) in the Auditor-General’s Bushfire Preparedness Report No. 5 /2013, identified the Government’s failure to comply with the *Emergencies Act 2004* to explicitly state all resources to meet the objectives of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan;
  - (d) the Justice and Community Safety Directorate’s agreement to Recommendation 2 (Chapter 3) of the Bushfire Preparedness Report;
  - (e) the Minister’s reaffirmation on 8 August 2013 regarding Recommendation 2 (Chapter 3) of the Bushfire Preparedness Report that the “Government will not be releasing these papers”; and
  - (f) the Government’s repeated refusal to disclose the Territory’s requirement and capability for bushfire management—citing that such information is “not considered appropriate for public release”—in direct contradiction to the *Emergencies Act 2004*; and
- (2) calls on the Government to release and make explicit all resources needed to meet the objectives of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan as per the *Emergencies Act 2004* by the last sitting day of November 2013. (*Notice given 17 September 2013. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on within 8 sitting weeks – standing order 125A*).

**4 MR COE:** To move—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
  - (a) the ACT Government has taken an ad hoc approach to planning;
  - (b) the Territory Plan is excessively complex and is stifling appropriate development, innovation and investment in Canberra;
  - (c) there is a lack of confidence in the planning system by residents, builders, planners and industry groups;
  - (d) Variation 306 has been destructive for the building and property sectors;
  - (e) there has been a lack of planning clarity with regard to development in the city such that the city is being drawn in all directions:
    - (i) to the west with City West, New Acton and Australian National University Exchange developments;
    - (ii) to the north with redevelopment in Braddon;



- (iii) to the south with the City to the Lake proposal; and
  - (iv) to the east with Draft Variation 308;
  - (f) funding has been provided through the Commonwealth Government's 'Liveable Cities program' to develop a city plan yet significant planning decisions have been made in the interim; and
  - (g) the ACT Government failed to sell Denman Prospect and as such, the ACT Government will be developing the site; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
- (a) undertake a thorough review of the Territory Plan with a view to simplifying the document and making the Plan more accessible and comprehensible;
  - (b) delay any implementation of Draft Variation 308 until after the City Plan has been completed;
  - (c) undertake a thorough review into the impact of Variation 306 with the intention of rectifying the significant problems the changes have brought about for industry, and subsequently, the ACT economy; and
  - (d) investigate the reasons for the failure to sell Denman Prospect and make any necessary revisions, such as sub-dividing the site and removing the restrictions imposed by Variation 306. (*Notice given 17 September 2013. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on within 8 sitting weeks – standing order 125A*).

**5 MS BERRY:** To move—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
  - (a) the importance of ensuring that all children, regardless of the challenges they face, can fully participate in society;
  - (b) the development of *Boundless Canberra*, the ACT's first inclusive playground, as a Centenary project driven by the commitment and enthusiasm of ACT Government public sector employees;
  - (c) that many public servants have signed up to workplace-giving schemes to donate a proportion of their salary to the project;
  - (d) that the ACT Government is supporting the project through a \$1 million loan, and that business and construction industry cash and in-kind support is now worth over \$500 000; and
  - (e) that Stage 1 works are expected to be ready to open early in 2014;
- (2) acknowledges the significant leadership of the ACT Government's public sector employees in working to make *Boundless Canberra* a reality; and
- (3) calls on the Government and all Members of the Assembly to promote *Boundless Canberra* at every opportunity and encourage further donations to ensure it can be delivered as a significant Centenary gift to the ACT community. (*Notice given 17 September 2013. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on within 8 sitting weeks – standing order 125A*).

**6 MR HANSON:** To move—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:

- (a) in 2010 the ACT Government established an Alcohol Crime Targeting Team within ACT Policing;
  - (b) liquor license fees for pubs and clubs were increased to, in part, cover the cost of the team;
  - (c) in April 2013 a Comcare infringement notice was served on ACT Police following a protracted period of staff safety being compromised by a lack of resources for the City Beat;
  - (d) following the infringement notice the Alcohol Targeting Team has been absorbed into the City Beat; and
  - (e) in this year’s budget the Government cut \$15 million from ACT Policing; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
- (a) reinstate the \$15 million cut from ACT policing in the budget;
  - (b) properly resource the City Beat;
  - (c) reinstate the Alcohol Crime Targeting Team; and
  - (d) introduce legislation to provide additional protections for police officers who are assaulted during the course of their duties. *(Notice given 17 September 2013. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on within 8 sitting weeks – standing order 125A).*

**ASSEMBLY BUSINESS**

**Notices**

**1** **MR RATTENBURY:** To move—That Continuing Resolution 5 (Code of Conduct for all Members of the Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory) adopted on 25 August 2005 (as amended 16 August 2006) be omitted and the following continuing resolution be adopted:

**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

The Members of the Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory acknowledge that, in a parliamentary democracy they cannot command, but must constantly strive to earn and maintain, the respect and support of those who have elected them to their positions of honour and privilege as Members.

In committing to this Code of Conduct, Members undertake, to the community and to one another, that the following principles will guide their conduct as Members in all matters:

- (1) Members will at all times act with integrity, honesty and diligence.
- (2) Members will act only in the interests of, and with respect for, the people of the Australian Capital Territory and in conformity with all laws applicable in the Territory.
- (3) Members will always act in the public interest, make decisions and choices on merit, and not seek to gain financial or other benefit for themselves, their family or friends.
- (4) Members will act independently and never place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might

influence them in the performance of their duties in a manner inconsistent with these principles.

- (5) Members will be reasonably accessible to the people of the electorate they have been elected to serve, and should represent their interests conscientiously.
- (6) Members will be transparent in, and accountable for, their decisions and actions, should avoid or appropriately resolve any actual or reasonably perceived conflicts of interest and should submit themselves to appropriate scrutiny.
- (7) Members will make only proper use of those public resources to which they have access.
- (8) Members will respect the dignity and privacy of individuals, and not disclose confidential information to which they have official access other than with consent or as permitted by law.
- (9) Members will observe proper standards of parliamentary conduct, and observe respect for differences and fairness in their political dealings.
- (10) Members and former Members should promote and support these principles by leadership and example, in order to maintain and support public trust and confidence in the integrity of the Assembly and the conduct by its Members of public business.

Consistent with the above principles, Members further undertake that they will:

- (11) Treat all citizens of the Australian Capital Territory with courtesy, and respect the diversity of their backgrounds, experiences and views.
- (12) Actively seek to prevent any conflict of interest, or the perception of such a conflict, arising between their duties as a Member and their personal affairs and interests, take all reasonable steps to resolve any such conflict or perception of a conflict that does arise, and:
  - (a) comply with section 15 of the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988* (Cwth);
  - (b) declare their pecuniary interests and ensure that their declaration is kept up to date pursuant to the resolution of the Assembly “Declaration of Private Interests of Members” agreed to on 7 April 1992 (as amended or replaced from time to time). Include in the Member’s Statement of Registrable Interests all gifts, payments, fees, rewards or benefits valued at more than \$100 received in connection with the Member’s functions as a Member; and
  - (c) disclose in a manner appropriate to the circumstances any other financial or non-financial interest that they may hold, or which they may be reasonably perceived to hold (other than as a member of the public or of a broad class of persons) which a reasonable observer, informed of that interest, might perceive as giving rise to a conflict of interest with the performance of the Member’s duty as a Member.
- (13) Not solicit to undertake, or undertake, any activity as a Member in return for the provision, promise or expectation of any improper benefit to the Member or to another person.
- (14) Not engage in any activities that materially impede their capacity to perform their duties as a Member.
- (15) Take care to consider the rights and reputations of others before making use of their unique protection of parliamentary privilege consistent with the

resolution of the Assembly “Exercise of freedom of speech” agreed to on 4 May 1995 (as amended or replaced from time to time).

- (16) Not use information received by them as a Member that is not in the public domain in breach of any obligation of confidence applicable to their receipt of that information, or improperly for the private benefit of themselves or another person.
- (17) Use the public resources (whether staff, financial or material) to which they are provided access as a Member:
  - (a) only for the purposes for which they are provided;
  - (b) in accordance with the terms and conditions on which they are provided; and
  - (c) in a manner designed to make effective, efficient and economic use of those resources.
- (18) In their capacity as an employer on behalf of the Territory under the *Legislative Assembly (Members’ Staff) Act 1989*:
  - (a) familiarise themselves and comply with the terms and conditions on which their personal staff are engaged and with all applicable policies and practices (including those related to occupational health and safety, discrimination, harassment and bullying, equal employment opportunity and use of information technology);
  - (b) not employ a family member as defined in that Act;
  - (c) direct their personal staff to be mindful of the Member’s commitment to this Code of Conduct, and to assist the Member to comply with this Code of Conduct; and
  - (d) direct their personal staff to comply with any code of conduct applicable to those staff from time to time.
- (19) In all their dealings with staff of the Assembly and members of the ACT Public Service:
  - (a) extend professional courtesy and respect; and
  - (b) recognise the unique position of impartiality and the obligations of Public Service officials.
- (20) Only make a complaint about the compliance of another Member with this Code of Conduct where they believe there are reasonable grounds to suspect non-compliance and not make any such complaint that is frivolous or vexatious or only for political advantage.
- (21) Cooperate fully with any official inquiry that may be commenced in connection with their compliance with this Code of Conduct, or that of another Member.

This resolution has effect from the date of its agreement by the Legislative Assembly and continues in force unless amended or repealed by this or a subsequent Assembly. (*Notice given 13 August 2013. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on within 7 sitting weeks – standing order 125A*).

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**MR RATTENBURY:** To move—That we, the Members of the Eighth Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory, having adopted a Code of Conduct for Members, reaffirm our commitment to the principles, obligations and aspirations of the code. (*Notice given 13 August 2013. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on within 7 sitting weeks – standing order 125A*).

**MR CORBELL:** To move—That:

- (1) the annual and financial reports for the calendar year 2013 and the financial year 2012–2013 presented to the Assembly pursuant to the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004* stand referred to the standing committees, on presentation, in accordance with the schedule below;
- (2) the annual reports of ACT Policing and the Office of the Legislative Assembly stand referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety and Standing Committee on Public Accounts respectively;
- (3) notwithstanding standing order 229, only one standing committee may meet for the consideration of the inquiry into the calendar year 2013 and financial year 2012–2013 annual and financial reports at any given time;
- (4) standing committees are to report to the Assembly by the last sitting day in March 2014; and
- (5) the foregoing provisions of this resolution have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.

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

<b>Annual Report (in alphabetical order)</b>	<b>Reporting area</b>	<b>Ministerial Portfolio</b>	<b>Standing Committee</b>
<b>Canberra Institute of Technology</b>		<b>Minister for Education and Training</b>	<b>Education, Training and Youth Affairs</b>
<b>Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate</b>		<b>Chief Minister</b>	<b>Public Accounts</b>
<b>Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate</b>	<b>ACT Executive</b>	<b>Chief Minister</b>	<b>Public Accounts</b>
<b>Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate</b>	<b>Industrial Relations Policy</b>  <b>Workplace Compensation and Workplace Safety</b>	<b>Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations</b>	<b>Justice and Community Safety</b>
<b>Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate</b>	<b>Default Insurance Fund</b>	<b>Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations</b>	<b>Justice and Community Safety</b>
<b>Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate</b>	<b>Work Safety Council</b>	<b>Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations</b>	<b>Justice and Community Safety</b>
<b>Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate</b>	<b>Regional Development</b>	<b>Minister for Regional Development</b>	<b>Public Accounts</b>
<b>Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate</b>	<b>Economic, Budget and financial management</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Public Accounts</b>
<b>Commerce and Works Directorate</b>	<b>ACT Government Procurement Board</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Public Accounts</b>
<b>Commerce and Works Directorate</b>	<b>Director of Territory Records</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Public Accounts</b>
<b>Commerce and Works Directorate</b>		<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Public Accounts</b>
<b>Commissioner for Public Administration</b>		<b>Chief Minister</b>	<b>Public Accounts</b>
<b>Community Services Directorate</b>	<b>Arts Policy, Advice and Programs (including Arts ACT)</b>	<b>Minister for the Arts</b>	<b>Education, Training and Youth Affairs</b>

<b>Annual Report (in alphabetical order)</b>	<b>Reporting area</b>	<b>Ministerial Portfolio</b>	<b>Standing Committee</b>
<b>Community Services Directorate</b>	<b>Community Affairs— Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs</b>	<b>Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs</b>	<b>Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services</b>
<b>Community Services Directorate</b>	<b>Community Affairs— Ageing</b>	<b>Minister for Ageing</b>	<b>Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services</b>
<b>Community Services Directorate</b>	<b>Community Affairs— Multicultural Affairs</b>	<b>Minister for Multicultural Affairs</b>	<b>Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services</b>
<b>Community Services Directorate</b>	<b>Community Affairs— Women</b>	<b>Minister for Women</b>	<b>Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services</b>
<b>Community Services Directorate</b>	<b>Community Development and Policy</b>	<b>Minister for Community Services</b>	<b>Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services</b>
<b>Community Services Directorate</b>	<b>Disability and Therapy Services</b>	<b>Minister for Disability, Children and Young People</b>	<b>Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services</b>
<b>Community Services Directorate</b>	<b>Housing ACT</b>	<b>Minister for Housing</b>	<b>Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services</b>
<b>Community Services Directorate</b>	<b>Children, Youth and Family services (Child and family centre program; children services; youth services)</b>	<b>Minister for Disability, Children and Young People</b>	<b>Education, Training and Youth Affairs</b>
<b>Community Services Directorate</b>	<b>Children, Youth and Family Services (Care and protection services)</b>	<b>Minister for Disability, Children and Young People</b>	<b>Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services</b>
<b>Community Services Directorate</b>	<b>Official Visitor — <i>Children and Young People Act 2008</i></b>	<b>Minister for Disability, Children and Young People</b>	<b>Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services</b>

<b>Annual Report (in alphabetical order)</b>	<b>Reporting area</b>	<b>Ministerial Portfolio</b>	<b>Standing Committee</b>
<b>Cultural Facilities Corporation</b>		<b>Minister for the Arts</b>	<b>Education, Training and Youth Affairs</b>
<b>Director of Public Prosecutions</b>		<b>Attorney-General</b>	<b>Justice and Community Safety</b>
<b>Economic Development Directorate</b>		<b>Minister for Economic Development</b>	<b>Public Accounts</b>
<b>Economic Development Directorate</b>	<b>Tourism Policy and Services (including Australian Capital Tourism)</b>	<b>Minister for Tourism and Events</b>	<b>Public Accounts</b>
<b>Economic Development Directorate</b>	<b>Sport and Recreation Services</b>	<b>Minister for Sport and Recreation</b>	<b>Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services</b>
<b>Education and Training Directorate</b>		<b>Minister for Education and Training</b>	<b>Education, Training and Youth Affairs</b>
<b>Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate</b>		<b>Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development</b>	<b>Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services</b>
<b>Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate</b>	<b>ACT Heritage Council</b>	<b>Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development</b>	<b>Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services</b>
<b>Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate</b>	<b>ACT Planning and Land Authority</b>	<b>Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development</b>	<b>Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services</b>
<b>Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate</b>	<b>Conservator of Flora and Fauna</b>	<b>Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development</b>	<b>Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services</b>
<b>Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate</b>	<b>Environment Protection Authority</b>	<b>Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development</b>	<b>Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services</b>
<b>Exhibition Park Corporation</b>	<b>Economic Development Directorate</b>	<b>Minister for Economic Development</b>	<b>Public Accounts</b>
<b>Health Directorate</b>		<b>Minister for Health</b>	<b>Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services</b>



<b>Annual Report (in alphabetical order)</b>	<b>Reporting area</b>	<b>Ministerial Portfolio</b>	<b>Standing Committee</b>
<b>Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission</b>		<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Public Accounts</b>
<b>Justice and Community Safety Directorate</b>		<b>Attorney-General</b>	<b>Justice and Community Safety</b>
<b>Justice and Community Safety Directorate</b>	<b>Corrective Services</b>	<b>Minister for Corrections</b>	<b>Justice and Community Safety</b>
<b>Justice and Community Safety Directorate</b>	<b>Emergency Services Agency</b>	<b>Minister for Police and Emergency Services</b>	<b>Justice and Community Safety</b>
<b>Justice and Community Safety Directorate</b>	<b>Transport Policy and Regulation</b>	<b>Attorney-General</b>	<b>Justice and Community Safety</b>
<b>Land Development Agency</b>		<b>Minister for Economic Development</b>	<b>Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services</b>
<b>Legal Aid Commission (ACT)</b>		<b>Attorney-General</b>	<b>Justice and Community Safety</b>
<b>Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment</b>		<b>Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development</b>	<b>Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services</b>
<b>Office of the Legislative Assembly</b>		<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Public Accounts</b>
<b>Public Advocate of the ACT</b>		<b>Attorney-General</b>	<b>Justice and Community Safety</b>
<b>Public Trustee for the ACT</b>		<b>Attorney-General</b>	<b>Justice and Community Safety</b>
<b>Territory and Municipal Services Directorate</b>		<b>Minister for Territory and Municipal Services</b>	<b>Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services</b>
<b>Territory and Municipal Services Directorate</b>	<b>Arboretum</b>	<b>Chief Minister</b>	<b>Public Accounts</b>
<b>Territory and Municipal Services Directorate</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>Minister for Territory and Municipal Services</b>	<b>Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services</b>

<b>Annual Report (in alphabetical order)</b>	<b>Reporting area</b>	<b>Ministerial Portfolio</b>	<b>Standing Committee</b>
<b>Territory and Municipal Services Directorate</b>	<b>ACT Public Cemeteries Authority</b>	<b>Minister for Territory and Municipal Services</b>	<b>Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services</b>
<b>Territory and Municipal Services Directorate</b>	<b>Animal Welfare Authority</b>	<b>Minister for Territory and Municipal Services</b>	<b>Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services</b>
<b>University of Canberra</b>		<b>Minister for Higher Education</b>	<b>Education, Training and Youth Affairs</b>
<b>Victims of Crime Support Program</b>		<b>Attorney-General</b>	<b>Justice and Community Safety</b>

*(Notice given 17 September 2013. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on within 8 sitting weeks – standing order 125A).*

- 4 **ACT GOVERNMENT'S TAX REFORM—MODELLING—PROPOSED ORDER TO TABLE:** Resumption of debate *(from 15 August 2013—Mr Corbell)* on the motion of Mr Smyth—That, in accordance with standing order 213A, Mr Barr table all modelling that has been conducted into the ACT Government's tax reform. *(Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on within 8 sitting weeks – standing order 152A.)*

## **EXECUTIVE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

### **Orders of the day**

- 1 **FAIR TRADING (FUEL PRICES) AMENDMENT BILL 2013:** *(Mr Rattenbury)* Agreement in principle—Resumption of debate *(from 6 June 2013—Mr Corbell)*.
- 2 **ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS (JUDICIAL REVIEW) AMENDMENT BILL 2013:** *(Mr Rattenbury)* Agreement in principle—Resumption of debate *(from 16 May 2013—Mr Corbell)*.

**Amin, Raouf**

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**From:** Wahren, Lee-Anne  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 September 2013 7:39 AM  
**To:** Phillips, Brett  
**Cc:** Amin, Raouf; JACS, Ministerial Services  
**Subject:** RE: Speeches for Smyth motion re bushfire preparedness

Many thanks Brett –

The Ngunnawal acknowledgement is a template issue. The Ministerial Speech template has it in as a matter of course.

I will remove the acknowledgement for the Motions and get this over to the Min's office at 8:30.

Lee-Anne Wahren PSM | Cabinet Liaison Officer

Phone 02 62070542 | Fax 02 62070514 |

Ministerial Services Unit | Justice and Community Safety Directorate | ACT Government

Physical Address | 12 Moore Street Canberra | Mail Address | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | [www.jacs.act.gov.au](http://www.jacs.act.gov.au)




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**From:** Phillips, Brett  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 September 2013 8:48 PM  
**To:** Wahren, Lee-Anne  
**Cc:** Amin, Raouf; JACS, Ministerial Services  
**Subject:** Fwd: Speeches for Smyth motion re bushfire preparedness

Lee-Anne

Have had a look at speeches. The document referring to the release of data in the second paras has a few typos. Otherwise they both seem ok, although I didn't think we had the acknowledgement at the front of motion speeches.

Will be in at 9 in the morning.

Cheers  
 Brett

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Amin, Raouf" <[Raouf.Amin@act.gov.au](mailto:Raouf.Amin@act.gov.au)>  
**Date:** 17 September 2013 5:35:50 PM AEST  
**To:** "Hosking, Kim" <[kimhosking.Hosking@act.gov.au](mailto:kimhosking.Hosking@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** "Ng, Daniel" <[Daniel.Ng@act.gov.au](mailto:Daniel.Ng@act.gov.au)>, "Phillips, Brett" <[Brett.Phillips@act.gov.au](mailto:Brett.Phillips@act.gov.au)>, "JACS, Ministerial Services" <[MinisterialServices.JACS@act.gov.au](mailto:MinisterialServices.JACS@act.gov.au)>, "Schofield, Karen" <[Karen.Schofield@act.gov.au](mailto:Karen.Schofield@act.gov.au)>, "Markham, Luke" <[Luke.Markham@act.gov.au](mailto:Luke.Markham@act.gov.au)>, "Lane, Dominic" <[Dominic.Lane@act.gov.au](mailto:Dominic.Lane@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Speeches for Smyth motion re bushfire preparedness

Hi Kim,

Pls find attached two speeches in response to the Smyth motion as cleared by the Commissioner. A/g DDGCS has not cleared as yet. First speech (response to the motion) is intended for the Minister and second

speech (ACT's current bushfire capability and Govt support) is for a second speaker. Let me know if you have any questions. I can be contacted on [REDACTED] if required.

MSU/Luke – As verbally advised MO has requested these speeches be sent directly to MO. Pls provide copies to Brett for his info. Trim ref is MIN:2013/002974 for the speeches. Grateful if you can put them the trim record pls. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

**Raouf Amin** | A/g Manager, Executive Support Unit

**Phone 02 6207 8666** | Fax 02 6207 8447 |

**ACT Emergency Services Agency** | Justice and Community Safety Directorate | **ACT Government**

Physical Address | 9 Amberley Avenue, Fairbairn Business Park Majura ACT 2609 | Mailing Address | GPO Box 158  
Canberra ACT 2601 | [www.jacs.act.gov.au](http://www.jacs.act.gov.au)



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2012-2013

## NOTICE PAPER

No. 32

WEDNESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2013

The Assembly meets this day at 10 am

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### PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

#### Notices

- \*1 **MR WALL:** To move—That this Assembly:
- (1) notes:
    - (a) the definitive language used by the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development when awarding licences to two new large scale solar developments on 19 August 2013, “two new solar farms will be developed in Canberra as a result of the Solar Auction process”;
    - (b) a site opposite Uriarra Village at Coree was chosen for a seven megawatt development; and
    - (c) residents of Uriarra were not aware the site opposite the village was being considered for a large scale solar development until after the announcement was made; and
  - (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
    - (a) consider and acknowledge the overwhelming sentiment of the community of Uriarra Village to relocate the large scale solar project away from the village;
    - (b) ensure the project does not proceed at the current location;

*\* Notifications to which an asterisk (\*) is prefixed appear for the first time*

- (3) calls on the Assembly to:
  - (a) support the ACT Government's continued funding and support for NICTA;
  - (b) lobby the new Commonwealth Government not to implement the proposed funding cuts; and
  - (c) lobby the new Commonwealth Government to maintain and/or increase funding for NICTA. (*Notice given 17 September 2013. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on within 8 sitting weeks – standing order 125A*).

\*3 **MR SMYTH:** To move—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
  - (a) section 72(3) of the *Emergencies Act 2004* requires the Minister must make a Strategic Bushfire Management Plan for the ACT after considering a draft plan from the Commissioner;
  - (b) section 74(2)(k) of the *Emergencies Act 2004* states that the plan must have “a statement of resources needed to meet the objectives of the plan”;
  - (c) Recommendation 2 (Chapter 3) in the Auditor-General's Bushfire Preparedness Report No. 5 /2013, identified the Government's failure to comply with the *Emergencies Act 2004* to explicitly state all resources to meet the objectives of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan;
  - (d) the Justice and Community Safety Directorate's agreement to Recommendation 2 (Chapter 3) of the Bushfire Preparedness report;
  - (e) the Minister's reaffirmation on 8 August 2013 regarding Recommendation 2 (Chapter 3) of the Bushfire Preparedness report that the “Government will not be releasing these papers”; and
  - (f) the Government's repeated refusal to disclose the Territory's requirement and capability for bushfire management—citing that such information is “not considered appropriate for public release”—in direct contradiction to the *Emergencies Act 2004*; and
- (2) calls on the Government to release and make explicit all resources needed to meet the objectives of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan as per the *Emergencies Act 2004* by the last sitting day of November 2013. (*Notice given 17 September 2013. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on within 8 sitting weeks – standing order 125A*).

\*4 **MR COE:** To move—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
  - (a) the ACT Government has taken an ad hoc approach to planning;
  - (b) the Territory Plan is excessively complex and is stifling appropriate development, innovation and investment in Canberra;
  - (c) there is a lack of confidence in the planning system by residents, builders, planners and industry groups;

**Amin, Raouf**

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**From:** Wahren, Lee-Anne  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 September 2013 9:07 AM  
**To:** Ng, Daniel  
**Cc:** Schofield, Karen; Eyers, Tom; Warren, Prue; Amin, Raouf  
**Subject:** Response to Smyth motion of 17Sept13 - Minister  
**Attachments:** Response to Smyth motion of 17Sept13 - Minister.doc

Hi Daniel

Brett's revisions are in revision mode.

Thanks

L

**MINISTERIAL SPEECH****Minister:** Minister for Police and Emergency Services**Ref:** MIN:2013/002974

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# MINISTERIAL SPEECH COVERSHEET

**Speech for: Mr Brendan Smyth MLA motion on statement of resources in the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan – Minister’s Speech**

**Date of event: 18 September 2013**

**Type of speech: full speech**

**Key messages to be included:**

- Response to Mr Smyth’s motion
- Outcomes from the Auditor-General’s performance audit report on the ACT’s bushfire preparedness and Government response to the Auditor-General’s recommendations
- Development and implementation of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan to manage and mitigate bushfire risk

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**Approved by:** Dominic Lane

**Action Officer:** Raouf Amin **Phone:** {620 78666}

**Date:** 17 September 2013

**Cleared by:** Brett Phillips, A/g Deputy Director-General



## MINISTERIAL SPEECH

Minister: Minister for Police and  
Emergency Services

Ref: MIN:2013/002974

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Madam Speaker

I thank Mr Brendan Smyth for his motion today calling on the Government to release all resources needed to meet the objectives of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan (the Plan) as per the *Emergencies Act 2004* (the Act) by the last sitting day of November 2013.

I have, on several occasions now, responded to Mr Smyth's call to release the Emergency Services' requirements and capability data. Following the estimates hearing for the Emergency Services Agency (ESA) on 19 June 2013, I provided a response on 8 July 2013 to Mr Smyth's question regarding the provision of internal reviews conducted by the ESA over the past six years. I provided this response to the Select Committee on Estimates.

On 29 July 2013, I provided a response to the Canberra Times in relation to Mr Smyth's media release comment on the Auditor-General's audit report on the Territory's bushfire preparedness (the Audit Report). Mr Smyth was again calling on the provision of the ESA's Emergency Services' requirements and capability data for bushfire preparedness.

Mr Smyth notes in his motion what he refers to as the “*Government’s failure to comply with the Emergencies Act*”. Recommendation 2 of the Audit Report states that:

*“The Emergency Services Agency should comply with the Emergencies Act 2004 requirements for the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan by including in this Plan an explicit statement of all resources needed to meet the objectives of the Plan.”*

I find this an unreasonable statement by Mr Smyth and taken out of context of what the Audit Report actually said.

The Auditor-General clearly recommended that the ***ESA should comply*** with the requirements of the Act for the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan by including in the Plan an explicit statement of all resources needed.

The Audit Report goes on to say that the ESA conducted an assessment of additional resources it required to implement specific activities in the Plan. This assessment unfortunately did not include an assessment of all resources needed, including existing resources, and the assessment was not provided to the ACT Bushfire Council.

The Audit Report noted that Chapter 6 of the Plan does outline an intent by the ESA to consider the resources required over the life of the Plan.

Madam Speaker, the Act specifies that a statement of resources be included in the Plan. The ESA in developing the Plan did not provide an “*explicit*” statement of resources, which the Audit Report found should have been included.

The Government accepts Recommendation 2 of the Audit Report and in moving forward will include an explicit statement of resources in version 3 of the Plan.

The current Plan will come to an end in October 2014 and any provision of resources to support it will need to be considered in the 2014-15 budget cycle.

The Government sees that Recommendation 2 of the Audit Report is an area of improvement. The ESA has stated in its response to this recommendation that a “*statement of resources will be included as part of the development of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan version 3*”. Furthermore, the statement of resources will be required to deliver each element of version 3 of the Plan under the framework of Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery (PPRR). The statement of resources will also identify the necessary functions, capability, equipment and infrastructure that the Government and its Directorates require to deliver version 3 of the Plan. This essentially means that this information will be publicly released following completion of version 3 of the Plan.

I would like to close on this particular point by saying that Mr Smyth’s assertions that the Government failed to comply with the Act by not explicitly stating all resources to meet the objectives of the Plan is a gross overstatement of what has actually been stated in the Audit report.

Madam Speaker, with respect to Mr Smyth's assertion that he or the Select Committee on Estimates were not provided with certain documents relating to the Territory's requirement and capability for bushfire management, I can say that after the estimates hearings in June 2013, the Government provided copies of bushfire management related reviews conducted by the ESA. These included the *Strategic Bushfire Management Plan version 2* and the *Government Agreed Recommendations from the McLeod Report and Doogan Coronial Inquiries into the 2003 Canberra bushfires – Implementation Report*, which are also publicly available. However some other internal reviews were considered financial, budget, or commercial in confidence or are of an internal operational nature and therefore not considered appropriate for public release.

### **Government response to Auditor-General's Audit Report on bushfire preparedness**

Madam Speaker, as everyone in this place is very much aware, an extensive performance audit was conducted by the Auditor-General of the ACT Government's preparedness to manage bushfire threats to the Territory. I thank and commend the Auditor-General and her staff for the extensive work they have undertaken to prepare the ACT Bushfire Preparedness performance audit report. The final audit report was released by the Auditor-General on 26 July 2013 and tabled in the Legislative Assembly by the Speaker on 6 August 2013. A Government Submission to the Public Accounts Committee in the Legislative Assembly has been prepared for tabling to the Committee by the end of October 2013.

I am very pleased that the Auditor-General found that the Government's prevention and preparedness activities position the community to meet the challenges of living in the bush capital. The Auditor-General found that the legislation the Government has in place, the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan and bushfire operational plans, successfully provide the framework needed to manage the risk of bushfires in the ACT.

The Audit Report will certainly contribute to further strengthening bushfire management and preparedness in the ACT. It provides us with an assurance that ESA staff and volunteers are working well to ensure they are ready to respond to and the community is prepared for major bushfires. The Audit Report provides the Government with the opportunity to respond to change, and seek to continually improve the provision of bushfire management services for prevention, preparedness and response, which I welcome.

The Government will take the next steps to build on the current planning framework, compliance and operational capability. The Government continually strives to strengthen its relationship with the ACT community to promote resilience, understanding and managing the risks associated with living in the bush capital.

The approach of shared responsibility has been a constant theme for the past decade and the Auditor-General's report and recommendations support the Government's commitment to building a shared responsibility by improving the resilience and capacity of both the community and the Government for bushfire preparedness.

Elevated bushfire conditions earlier in January this year with fires in and around the ACT and NSW resulted in the successful activation and implementation of a number of plans demonstrating their effectiveness across the ESA and Whole-of-Government. The Government has significantly enhanced the provision of information to the community, building a strong relationship with the local media and providing timely and accurate emergency warnings and messages through its website and increased usage of social media.

The Auditor-General made 24 recommendations in the performance audit report on the ACT's Bushfire Preparedness. The Government agreed to or agreed in part to all the report recommendations and the details of the Government responses are stated in the Audit Report. Six of the recommendations were considered as a high priority by the Auditor-General.

The Audit Report has identified some "*areas of improvement*", which the my Directorate will address, in consultation and cooperation with other ACT Government directorates, agencies and local organisations with roles defined within the Emergencies Act, specifically on the high priority issues highlighted in the report.

### **Strategic Bushfire Management Plan**

Madam Speaker, with respect to the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan, the Government released version 2 in October 2009. The development of version 2 of this Plan included consideration of the interim findings of the Victorian Bushfire Royal Commission, the Coronial inquiry into the 2003 Canberra Bushfires and the National framework for scaled bushfire advice and bushfire warnings, released in 2009.

The Plan identifies a wide range of activities for bushfire prevention, preparedness, response and recovery which required additional funding to undertake key programs identified in the Plan. The Government and ESA continue to implement the strategies in version 2 of the Plan.

Further, under the Emergencies Act, some land managers are required to prepare bushfire operational plans that are consistent with the policies and strategies in the Plan. These plans identify the detailed actions such as hazard reduction, trail maintenance, and grazing that land managers would undertake to meet bushfire management requirements.

Madam Speaker, I can also advise the members of the Assembly that work on the review and development of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan version 3 has commenced in compliance with section 80 of the Act, which states that I, as the Minister for Emergency Services, must, in consultation with the ACT Bushfire Council, comprehensively review the Plan at intervals of not more than five years. Version 3 of the Plan is anticipated to be completed by the end of October 2014.

### ***The ACT Emergency Plan (ACTEP)***

Madam Speaker, in addition to the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan, a series of important emergency plans have also been developed or updated since the 2003 Canberra bushfires. From a Whole of Government perspective, the ACT Emergency Plan describes the responsibilities, authorities and the mechanisms to prevent, or if they occur, manage emergencies and their consequences within the ACT in accordance with the requirements of the Emergencies Act.

## ***Community Communication and Information Plan***

The Community Communication and Information Plan (CCIP) is an approved sub-plan of the ACT Emergency Plan. The CCIP clearly outlines how the Government will communicate with the public when there is a threat of, or an actual emergency in the Territory, and details the process for all communications staff across the Government to come together to work as one with emergency services media teams to ensure a single point of truth for the dissemination of all public information during a major incident.

### ***Emergencies (Concept of operations for bush and grass fires in the ACT)***

#### ***Commissioner's Guidelines 2012***

As part of the ESA's continued efforts to improve governance arrangements in fighting bushfires between operational services such as the ACT Rural Fire Service, and ACT Fire & Rescue, a concept of operations for bush and grass fires in the ACT Commissioner's guidelines was created. "*Concept of Operations*" is a capstone document that establishes, at the strategic level, the principles for managing bush and grass fires occurring on any fire danger rated day from low through to catastrophic fire danger rated days.

In addition, the "*Concept of Operations*" also recognises the need to ensure that the Territory is sufficiently prepared to manage bush and grass fires under the worst possible conditions. In recognition that the factors (e.g. fuel state, climate variables) that drive these worst possible outcomes varies from year to year, (as well on shorter timeframes) the fire services will jointly advise the Commissioner prior to each fire season on the key risk factors and most likely "*worst case*" scenario for the coming season.



## Closing

In closing, Madam Speaker, I wish to commend, on behalf of the Government, the Auditor-General's efforts in undertaking such an expansive audit of bushfire preparedness in the ACT. No doubt the Audit Report is a reminder for the Territory's emergency services personnel to remain always vigilant to and prepared for the imminent threat of bushfires to the Canberra community.

I would also like to thank and commend the ACT Community, the ESA personnel from fire and rescue firefighters, RFS, SES, Community Fire Units and Mapping volunteers, and staff, ambulance officers and support staff, for their tireless efforts in protecting the ACT and its citizens from the bushfires and storms.

Thank you.

**Amin, Raouf**

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**From:** Wahren, Lee-Anne  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 September 2013 9:09 AM  
**To:** Ng, Daniel  
**Cc:** Schofield, Karen; Warren, Prue; Eysers, Tom; Amin, Raouf  
**Subject:** Response to Smyth motion of 17Sept13 - Speaker 2  
**Attachments:** Response to Smyth motion of 17Sept13 - Speaker 2.doc

Hi Daniel –

A couple of minor edits to speech two from Brett.

Cheers

L

**MINISTERIAL SPEECH****Minister:** Minister for Police and Emergency Services**Ref:** MIN:2013/002974

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# MINISTERIAL SPEECH COVERSHEET

**Speech for: Mr Brendan Smyth MLA motion on statement of resources in the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan – Speaker 2**

**Date of event: 18 September 2013**

**Type of speech: full speech**

**Key messages to be included:**

- Government actions to improve bushfire preparedness
- Preparations for 2013-14 Bushfire season

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**Approved by:** Dominic Lane

**Action Officer:** Raouf Amin **Phone:** {620 78666}

**Date:** 17 September 2013

**Cleared by:** Brett Phillips, A/g Deputy Director-General Community Safety

## MINISTERIAL SPEECH

Minister: Minister for Police and  
Emergency Services

Ref: MIN:2013/002974Error!

Reference source not found.

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### Government actions to improve bushfire preparedness

Madam Speaker, the Government has implemented significant reforms and these reforms are ongoing. This demonstrates that the Government has taken very seriously the emotional, financial, environmental and other impacts that were experienced by Canberrans on 18 January 2003.

The ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) through its four operational services, ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS), ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R), ACT Rural Fire Service (ACTRFS) and ACT State Emergency Service (ACTSES) stands ready to respond to the community's needs 24 hours a day seven days a week, with the Emergency Services communications centre operated 24/7.

The ESA has developed its relationship with the ACT community to promote resilience and to understand and manage the risks associated with living in the bush capital.

Madam Speaker, Canberra may experience more catastrophic bushfires in the future as it is impossible to fire proof the Australian landscape, however the Government's response will be much different. The significant reforms implemented by the Government over the past 10 years have made a substantial difference to the safety and well being of Canberrans. The Government's response to the elevated fire danger the ACT experienced earlier in the year is testament to the preparedness of emergency services personnel in being able to successfully suppress the fires that occurred in Namadgi National Park over that period.

What will be equally critical however in our response to the next major bushfire is the extent to which Canberrans themselves prepare for such events. Public awareness and community education play an important role in this and significant improvements have been implemented in this area including the use of social media, the new emergency alert system and the Prepare, Act. Survive, messaging to the community.

### ***ESA structural changes and legislative enhancements to governance structures***

The Government's commitment to learning from the lessons of 2003 is unequivocal. The Government introduced the Emergencies Act in 2004 (the Act), which established and strengthened the governance, management structure and operational preparedness within the Emergency Services Agency. The Act also gave each of the Services unambiguous roles, and clearly described functions of each of the Service Chief Officers.

### **Government funding for the ESA**

Madam Speaker, the Government has increased the ESA's recurrent funding since 2004-05 from \$44.8 million to \$104.3 million, a 133% increase. There has been significant investment in new firefighting, specialist and command vehicles for the emergency services fleet; in more firefighters; and in upgrading of Emergency Services facilities and equipment.

The completion of the ESA Headquarters, Communications Centre, Media Briefing Room and the new Workshop located at Fairbairn Business Park, Majura can be credited as the most significant enhancement to the way ESA and Service Support personnel operate within ESA Headquarters. For the first time, all ESA support personnel have been integrated to work in the ESA's Fairbairn premises.

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### ***Government Investment in Bushfire response capability***

Government funding is helping to ensure that our emergency services have state-of-the-art equipment and vehicles to ensure that they can effectively and efficiently carry out their jobs in assisting the Canberra community, especially in dealing with bushfires across the Territory.

An initial Station Relocation Feasibility Study (SRFS) was conducted in 2008. This study was utilised by the ESA to assist in undertaking major, minor and new capital works to a number of RFS Sheds. The objective of the SRFS was to examine the current location of emergency service facilities in the ACT and the future viability of these facilities in alignment with projected geographic and demographic changes in the ACT over the next thirty (30) years in accordance with Government agreed performance targets.

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### ***Community Information and Preparedness***

Madam Speaker, Amendments to the Emergencies Act have continued to improve and refine the existing governance arrangements for the management and coordination of emergency response in the ACT. They strengthen the ACT's statutory arrangements to ensure enhanced operability of resources to provide the Canberra community with a strengthened and effective multi-agency response to future emergency events.

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Communication is a critical part of ensuring ESA personnel and volunteers are informed of Government initiatives related to Emergency Services, and as the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, I regularly meet with RFS, SES, Community Fire Unit and ESA Mapping volunteers. These meetings provide a forum for the Government to acknowledge the commitment and contribution of the volunteers and to discuss any concerns raised by them. Volunteers are increasingly being used as community education presenters and local community engagement contacts.



### *Other capability enhancements*

Madam Speaker, in addition to what I have already mentioned, the Government has also provided funding to enhance the ESA's capabilities in other agency functions that could fully support bushfire suppression activities.

In November 2011 the Minister for Police and Emergency Services publicly released the ESA Station Upgrade and Relocation Strategy and Implementation Plan (the Strategy) and announced the commencement of the first community consultation process for Phase One; which proposed to locate ESA stations in Charnwood (West Belconnen), Aranda (Belconnen) and in Calwell/Conder (South Tuggeranong).

The Government allocated \$21.318 million in the 2012-13 Budget for the construction of a new combined ambulance and fire & rescue station in Charnwood. The new West Belconnen station is a key first step in delivering on the Government's commitment to improve emergency services coverage in Canberra. The Justice and Community Safety Directorate anticipate that the new ambulance and fire & rescue station in Charnwood will be completed and operational in the coming months.

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Implementation of the Station Upgrade and Relocation Strategy will provide major benefits to the ACT community. Strategically locating ambulance and fire & rescue stations to better serve the needs and expectations of the community will save more lives, property and the environment.

The Government also provided funding of \$4.1 million over 4 years in the 2013-14 Budget to employ six additional firefighters to crew the ACTF&R Platform on Demand (POD) capability on a 24/7 basis.

ACTF&R POD capability is designed to transport and deploy specialised equipment such as urban search and rescue and hazmat equipment. The PODS are an innovative capability that enhances the ESA's operational capacity and provides an efficient and effective means of delivering equipment and support resources to ACTF&R and other ESA services to assist with incident response and management, such as bushfires, across the Territory.

From an urban firefighting perspective, the ACT Fire and Rescue (ACTF&R) implemented a number of recruitment colleges to ensure the Service is full to optimum level. There are also currently 50 Community Fire Units with over 1,000 Volunteers established throughout the ACT that are ready to engage in fire prevention and suppression activities should the bushfires encroach into the urban interface.

## **Preparations for 2013-14 Bushfire season**

### *What happened during the 2012-13 bushfire season*

Madam Speaker, the ACT experienced a period of prolonged heat in January this year associated with dry lightning storm activity led to a number of fires starting in the Brindabella ranges. The ACTRFS responded quickly to these ignitions and successfully contained all the fires before extreme fire conditions were experienced on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of January. Further extreme fire weather on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> also led to a heightened alert level for the ACTRFS and ACTF&R. Again all fires within the Territory were successfully contained. There were a total of five Total Fire Ban days to date during the bushfire season. This compares to no Total Fire Bans during the previous bushfire season of 2011-12.

During the past bushfire season, the ACT recorded a total of 223 bush and grass fires, with only 104 recorded during the previous season. We saw some dangerous fire conditions through the ACT during the season and I would like to thank the ACT Community and the ESA personnel and volunteers for their co-operation, support and efforts during these times.

The past fire season also saw the ACTRFS and ACTF&R providing assistance to NSW with deployments of Task Forces and Remote Aerial Firefighting Teams (RAFT) crews to fires near Yass, Cooma and Bungendore. ACTRFS, including RAFT crews, were also deployed to Harrietville, the Grampian Mountains and Bairnsdale in Victoria, as well as in Cambridge in Tasmania, to assist those jurisdictions in their firefighting efforts.

Since the start of the prolonged heatwave period in January 2013, the ACTRFS received over 280 registrations from people who were interested in becoming a volunteer. All those who registered were invited to an information night that was held February and approximately 100 prospective recruits attended.

### ***2013-14 bushfire season outlook – the season ahead***

Madam Speaker, in looking at the bushfire season ahead, large areas of Southern Australia, including the ACT and the surrounding NSW region will face higher than average bushfire risk for the 2013-14 season. The recent wet weather conditions the ACT has experienced and a continued forecast of a wetter than average spring is expected to bring large amounts of grass growth across the Territory. This could present a problem over summer for grassland fires if a drying trend eventuates over that period.

Forecast indicators point to a dry and hot summer period for the ACT, which could lead to a significant bushfire season.

### ***Preparations for 2013-14 Bushfire season***

Madam Speaker, in preparing for the 2013-14 bushfire season, the Government and the ESA have an obligation to educate the ACT community on the major threats it faces such as bushfires. The ACT bushfire season is expected to commence on 1 October.

Madam Speaker, as always the Government and its emergency services personnel remains prepared for the possible onset of bushfire. As in past years, aviation resources will be made available for the coming season.

Favourable weather over autumn and early winter has assisted the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate for example with a significant number of hazard reduction burns.

Through the existing National Aerial Firefighting Committee contract two helicopters, (one medium and one light 'lift'), will provide coverage to the ACT and surrounding NSW. These aircraft will be in place from late November to early December 2013 based on weather conditions. There will be an ability to request their attendance earlier should circumstances change. The ACTRFS also have access to additional aircraft on an "*call when needed*" basis if required.

Four fire towers positioned at Mount Tennant, Mount Coree, One Tree Hill and Kowen Forest will be available for operation when required from 1 November 2013.

As of 30 June, 2013, the ACTRFS has 550 volunteer firefighters from eight volunteer brigades and a ninth brigade (Parks) from the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate has a further 140 firefighters. The ACTRFS also has available over 50 specialist (RAFT) members, designed to fight fires in remote locations.

In 2012, the ACTRFS installed the new Mobile Data Terminal System. This system manages resources across the ACTRFS and ensures that closest most appropriate resource to be dispatched to an incident. This year it has been upgraded to enable crew member tracking and utilization in remote areas of the ACT, along with an incident reporting capability.

The ACTRFS have identified horse owners as one of our highest risk groups and as such have been working with them to improve their bushfire awareness and resilience. Under the guidance of the ACTRFS and with Federal National Disaster Resilience Program funds the ACT Equestrian Association has produced a horse response trailer to support their community during bushfire and emergency events. The trailer carries the resources to erect 24 (4x4m) temporary pens for the safe containment of evacuated horses; plus additional lead ropes, halters, feed/water buckets, solar generator etc. to support a larger number of horses in a safe and orderly fashion.

Madam Speaker, the ESA have already completed to date the following comprehensive pre-season servicing of RFS and CFU firefighting vehicles:

- 46 Frontline ACTRFS and ACTF&R bushfire vehicles (tankers heavy & medium, light units & CAFS);
- 36 Community Fire Units ; and
- 5 quick fill and RAFT trailers.

## **Closing**

In closing, Madam Speaker, the Government and its emergency services personnel are well prepared to engage in bushfire prevention and suppression activities if they occur during the coming fire season.

Some of the things we as a community can do is to listen to emergency services advice on how to manage fuel hazards in your backyard and completing a Bushfire Survival Plan. This is one way in which we can support the ESA personnel by mitigating the risks of bushfires and avoiding tragedies like the 2003 Canberra bushfires.

Thank you.

**MINISTERIAL SPEECH****Minister:** Minister for Police and Emergency Services**Ref:** MIN:2013/002974

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# MINISTERIAL SPEECH COVERSHEET

**Speech for: Mr Brendan Smyth MLA motion on statement of resources in the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan – Minister’s Speech**

**Date of event: 18 September 2013**

**Type of speech: full speech**

**Key messages to be included:**

- Response to Mr Smyth’s motion
- Outcomes from the Auditor-General’s performance audit report on the ACT’s bushfire preparedness and Government response to the Auditor-General’s recommendations
- Development and implementation of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan to manage and mitigate bushfire risk

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**Approved by:** Dominic Lane

**Action Officer:** Raouf Amin **Phone:** {620 78666}

**Date:** 17 September 2013

**Cleared by:** Brett Phillips, A/g Deputy Director-General



## MINISTERIAL SPEECH

Minister: Minister for Police and  
Emergency Services  
Ref: MIN:2013/002974

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Madam Speaker

I thank Mr Brendan Smyth for his motion today calling on the Government to release all resources needed to meet the objectives of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan (the Plan) as per the *Emergencies Act 2004* (the Act) by the last sitting day of November 2013.

I have, on several occasions now, responded to Mr Smyth's call to release the Emergency Services' requirements and capability data. Following the estimates hearing for the Emergency Services Agency (ESA) on 19 June 2013, I provided a response on 8 July 2013 to Mr Smyth's question regarding the provision of internal reviews conducted by the ESA over the past six years. I provided this response to the Select Committee on Estimates.

On 29 July 2013, I provided a response to the Canberra Times in relation to Mr Smyth's media release comment on the Auditor-General's audit report on the Territory's bushfire preparedness (the Audit Report). Mr Smyth was again calling on the provision of the ESA's Emergency Services' requirements and capability data for bushfire preparedness.

Mr Smyth notes in his motion what he refers to as the “*Government’s failure to comply with the Emergencies Act*”. Recommendation 2 of the Audit Report states that:

*“The Emergency Services Agency should comply with the Emergencies Act 2004 requirements for the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan by including in this Plan an explicit statement of all resources needed to meet the objectives of the Plan.”*

I find this an unreasonable statement by Mr Smyth and taken out of context of what the Audit Report actually said.

The Auditor-General clearly recommended that the **ESA should comply** with the requirements of the Act for the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan by including in the Plan an explicit statement of all resources needed.

The Audit Report goes on to say that the ESA conducted an assessment of additional resources it required to implement specific activities in the Plan. This assessment unfortunately did not include an assessment of all resources needed, including existing resources, and the assessment was not provided to the ACT Bushfire Council.

The Audit Report noted that Chapter 6 of the Plan does outline an intent by the ESA to consider the resources required over the life of the Plan.

Madam Speaker, the Act specifies that a statement of resources be included in the Plan. The ESA in developing the Plan did not provide an “*explicit*” statement of resources, which the Audit Report found should have been included.

The Government accepts Recommendation 2 of the Audit Report and in moving forward will include an explicit statement of resources in version 3 of the Plan.

The current Plan will come to an end in October 2014 and any provision of resources to support it will need to be considered in the 2014-15 budget cycle.

The Government sees that Recommendation 2 of the Audit Report is an area of improvement. The ESA has stated in its response to this recommendation that a “*statement of resources will be included as part of the development of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan version 3*”. Furthermore, the statement of resources will be required to deliver each element of version 3 of the Plan under the framework of Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery (PPRR). The statement of resources will also identify the necessary functions, capability, equipment and infrastructure that the Government and its Directorates require to deliver version 3 of the Plan. This essentially means that this information will be publicly released following completion of version 3 of the Plan.

I would like to close on this particular point by saying that Mr Smyth’s assertions that the Government failed to comply with the Act by not explicitly stating all resources to meet the objectives of the Plan is a gross overstatement of what has actually been stated in the Audit report.

Madam Speaker, with respect to Mr Smyth's assertion that he or the Select Committee on Estimates were not provided with certain documents relating to the Territory's requirement and capability for bushfire management, I can say that after the estimates hearings in June 2013, the Government provided copies of bushfire management related reviews conducted by the ESA. These included the *Strategic Bushfire Management Plan version 2* and the *Government Agreed Recommendations from the McLeod Report and Doogan Coronial Inquiries into the 2003 Canberra bushfires – Implementation Report*, which are also publicly available. However some other internal reviews were considered financial, budget, or commercial in confidence or are of an internal operational nature and therefore not considered appropriate for public release.

### **Government response to Auditor-General's Audit Report on bushfire preparedness**

Madam Speaker, as everyone in this place is very much aware, an extensive performance audit was conducted by the Auditor-General of the ACT Government's preparedness to manage bushfire threats to the Territory. I thank and commend the Auditor-General and her staff for the extensive work they have undertaken to prepare the ACT Bushfire Preparedness performance audit report. The final audit report was released by the Auditor-General on 26 July 2013 and tabled in the Legislative Assembly by the Speaker on 6 August 2013. A Government Submission to the Public Accounts Committee in the Legislative Assembly has been prepared for tabling to the Committee by the end of October 2013.

I am very pleased that the Auditor-General found that the Government's prevention and preparedness activities position the community to meet the challenges of living in the bush capital. The Auditor-General found that the legislation the Government has in place, the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan and bushfire operational plans, successfully provide the framework needed to manage the risk of bushfires in the ACT.

The Audit Report will certainly contribute to further strengthening bushfire management and preparedness in the ACT. It provides us with an assurance that ESA staff and volunteers are working well to ensure they are ready to respond to and the community is prepared for major bushfires. The Audit Report provides the Government with the opportunity to respond to change, and seek to continually improve the provision of bushfire management services for prevention, preparedness and response, which I welcome.

The Government will take the next steps to build on the current planning framework, compliance and operational capability. The Government continually strives to strengthen its relationship with the ACT community to promote resilience, understanding and managing the risks associated with living in the bush capital.

The approach of shared responsibility has been a constant theme for the past decade and the Auditor-General's report and recommendations support the Government's commitment to building a shared responsibility by improving the resilience and capacity of both the community and the Government for bushfire preparedness.

Elevated bushfire conditions earlier in January this year with fires in and around the ACT and NSW resulted in the successful activation and implementation of a number of plans demonstrating their effectiveness across the ESA and Whole-of-Government. The Government has significantly enhanced the provision of information to the community, building a strong relationship with the local media and providing timely and accurate emergency warnings and messages through its website and increased usage of social media.

The Auditor-General made 24 recommendations in the performance audit report on the ACT's Bushfire Preparedness. The Government agreed to or agreed in part to all the report recommendations and the details of the Government responses are stated in the Audit Report. Six of the recommendations were considered as a high priority by the Auditor-General.

The Audit Report has identified some "*areas of improvement*", which the my Directorate will address, in consultation and cooperation with other ACT Government directorates, agencies and local organisations with roles defined within the Emergencies Act, specifically on the high priority issues highlighted in the report.

### **Strategic Bushfire Management Plan**

Madam Speaker, with respect to the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan, the Government released version 2 in October 2009. The development of version 2 of this Plan included consideration of the interim findings of the Victorian Bushfire Royal Commission, the Coronial inquiry into the 2003 Canberra Bushfires and the National framework for scaled bushfire advice and bushfire warnings, released in 2009.

The Plan identifies a wide range of activities for bushfire prevention, preparedness, response and recovery which required additional funding to undertake key programs identified in the Plan. The Government and ESA continue to implement the strategies in version 2 of the Plan.

Further, under the Emergencies Act, some land managers are required to prepare bushfire operational plans that are consistent with the policies and strategies in the Plan. These plans identify the detailed actions such as hazard reduction, trail maintenance, and grazing that land managers would undertake to meet bushfire management requirements.

Madam Speaker, I can also advise the members of the Assembly that work on the review and development of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan version 3 has commenced in compliance with section 80 of the Act, which states that I, as the Minister for Emergency Services, must, in consultation with the ACT Bushfire Council, comprehensively review the Plan at intervals of not more than five years. Version 3 of the Plan is anticipated to be completed by the end of October 2014.

### ***The ACT Emergency Plan (ACTEP)***

Madam Speaker, in addition to the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan, a series of important emergency plans have also been developed or updated since the 2003 Canberra bushfires. From a Whole of Government perspective, the ACT Emergency Plan describes the responsibilities, authorities and the mechanisms to prevent, or if they occur, manage emergencies and their consequences within the ACT in accordance with the requirements of the Emergencies Act.

## ***Community Communication and Information Plan***

The Community Communication and Information Plan (CCIP) is an approved sub-plan of the ACT Emergency Plan. The CCIP clearly outlines how the Government will communicate with the public when there is a threat of, or an actual emergency in the Territory, and details the process for all communications staff across the Government to come together to work as one with emergency services media teams to ensure a single point of truth for the dissemination of all public information during a major incident.

### ***Emergencies (Concept of operations for bush and grass fires in the ACT)***

#### ***Commissioner's Guidelines 2012***

As part of the ESA's continued efforts to improve governance arrangements in fighting bushfires between operational services such as the ACT Rural Fire Service, and ACT Fire & Rescue, a concept of operations for bush and grass fires in the ACT Commissioner's guidelines was created. "*Concept of Operations*" is a capstone document that establishes, at the strategic level, the principles for managing bush and grass fires occurring on any fire danger rated day from low through to catastrophic fire danger rated days.

In addition, the "*Concept of Operations*" also recognises the need to ensure that the Territory is sufficiently prepared to manage bush and grass fires under the worst possible conditions. In recognition that the factors (e.g. fuel state, climate variables) that drive these worst possible outcomes varies from year to year, (as well on shorter timeframes) the fire services will jointly advise the Commissioner prior to each fire season on the key risk factors and most likely "*worst case*" scenario for the coming season.



## **Closing**

In closing, Madam Speaker, I wish to commend, on behalf of the Government, the Auditor-General's efforts in undertaking such an expansive audit of bushfire preparedness in the ACT. No doubt the Audit Report is a reminder for the Territory's emergency services personnel to remain always vigilant to and prepared for the imminent threat of bushfires to the Canberra community.

I would also like to thank and commend the ACT Community, the ESA personnel from fire and rescue firefighters, RFS, SES, Community Fire Units and Mapping volunteers, and staff, ambulance officers and support staff, for their tireless efforts in protecting the ACT and its citizens from the bushfires and storms.

Thank you.

**MINISTERIAL SPEECH**

**Minister:** Minister for Police and Emergency Services  
**Ref:** MIN:2013/002974

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# MINISTERIAL SPEECH COVERSHEET

**Speech for: Mr Brendan Smyth MLA motion on statement of resources in the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan – Speaker 2**

**Date of event: 18 September 2013**

**Type of speech: full speech**

**Key messages to be included:**

- Government actions to improve bushfire preparedness
- Preparations for 2013-14 Bushfire season

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**Approved by:** Dominic Lane

**Action Officer:** Raouf Amin **Phone:** {620 78666}

**Date:** 17 September 2013

**Cleared by:** Brett Phillips, A/g Deputy Director-General Community Safety

## MINISTERIAL SPEECH

Minister: Minister for Police and  
Emergency Services

Ref: MIN:2013/002974  
Reference source not found.

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### **Government actions to improve bushfire preparedness**

Madam Speaker, the Government has implemented significant reforms and these reforms are ongoing. This demonstrates that the Government has taken very seriously the emotional, financial, environmental and other impacts that were experienced by Canberrans on 18 January 2003.

The ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) through its four operational services, ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS), ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R), ACT Rural Fire Service (ACTRFS) and ACT State Emergency Service (ACTSES) stands ready to respond to the community's needs 24 hours a day seven days a week, with the Emergency Services communications centre operated 24/7.

The ESA has developed its relationship with the ACT community to promote resilience and to understand and manage the risks associated with living in the bush capital.

Madam Speaker, Canberra may experience more catastrophic bushfires in the future as it is impossible to fire proof the Australian landscape, however the Government's response will be much different. The significant reforms implemented by the Government over the past 10 years have made a substantial difference to the safety and well being of Canberrans. The Government's response to the elevated fire danger the ACT experienced earlier in the year is testament to the preparedness of emergency services personnel in being able to successfully suppress the fires that occurred in Namadgi National Park over that period.

What will be equally critical however in our response to the next major bushfire is the extent to which Canberrans themselves prepare for such events. Public awareness and community education play an important role in this and significant improvements have been implemented in this area including the use of social media, the new emergency alert system and the Prepare, Act. Survive, messaging to the community.

### ***ESA structural changes and legislative enhancements to governance structures***

The Government's commitment to learning from the lessons of 2003 is unequivocal. The Government introduced the Emergencies Act in 2004 (the Act), which established and strengthened the governance, management structure and operational preparedness within the Emergency Services Agency. The Act also gave each of the Services unambiguous roles, and clearly described functions of each of the Service Chief Officers.

### **Government funding for the ESA**

Madam Speaker, the Government has increased the ESA's recurrent funding since 2004-05 from \$44.8 million to \$104.3 million, a 133% increase. There has been significant investment in new firefighting, specialist and command vehicles for the emergency services fleet; in more firefighters; and in upgrading of Emergency Services facilities and equipment.

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The completion of the purpose built ESA Training Facility, located at Hume, in May 2012 also provides multi service training facilities for ESA staff and volunteers.

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The Government also has allocated \$1.65 million in 2012-13 for due diligence assessments related to proposed new or improved ESA facilities in Fyshwick, Calwell, Greenway, Gungahlin, Pialligo and the city centre area. This prudent preparatory work will further inform Phase 2 of the Strategy.



Implementation of the Station Upgrade and Relocation Strategy will provide major benefits to the ACT community. Strategically locating ambulance and fire & rescue stations to better serve the needs and expectations of the community will save more lives, property and the environment.

The Government also provided funding of \$4.1 million over 4 years in the 2013-14 Budget to employ six additional firefighters to crew the ACTF&R Platform on Demand (POD) capability on a 24/7 basis.

ACTF&R POD capability is designed to transport and deploy specialised equipment such as urban search and rescue and hazmat equipment. The PODS are an innovative capability that enhances the ESA's operational capacity and provides an efficient and effective means of delivering equipment and support resources to ACTF&R and other ESA services to assist with incident response and management, such as bushfires, across the Territory.

From an urban firefighting perspective, the ACT Fire and Rescue (ACTF&R) implemented a number of recruitment colleges to ensure the Service is full to optimum level. There are also currently 50 Community Fire Units with over 1,000 Volunteers established throughout the ACT that are ready to engage in fire prevention and suppression activities should the bushfires encroach into the urban interface.

## **Preparations for 2013-14 Bushfire season**

### *What happened during the 2012-13 bushfire season*

Madam Speaker, the ACT experienced a period of prolonged heat in January this year associated with dry lightning storm activity led to a number of fires starting in the Brindabella ranges. The ACTRFS responded quickly to these ignitions and successfully contained all the fires before extreme fire conditions were experienced on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of January. Further extreme fire weather on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> also led to a heightened alert level for the ACTRFS and ACTF&R. Again all fires within the Territory were successfully contained. There were a total of five Total Fire Ban days to date during the bushfire season. This compares to no Total Fire Bans during the previous bushfire season of 2011-12.

During the past bushfire season, the ACT recorded a total of 223 bush and grass fires, with only 104 recorded during the previous season. We saw some dangerous fire conditions through the ACT during the season and I would like to thank the ACT Community and the ESA personnel and volunteers for their co-operation, support and efforts during these times.

The past fire season also saw the ACTRFS and ACTF&R providing assistance to NSW with deployments of Task Forces and Remote Aerial Firefighting Teams (RAFT) crews to fires near Yass, Cooma and Bungendore. ACTRFS, including RAFT crews, were also deployed to Harrietville, the Grampian Mountains and Bairnsdale in Victoria, as well as in Cambridge in Tasmania, to assist those jurisdictions in their firefighting efforts.

Since the start of the prolonged heatwave period in January 2013, the ACTRFS received over 280 registrations from people who were interested in becoming a volunteer. All those who registered were invited to an information night that was held February and approximately 100 prospective recruits attended.

### ***2013-14 bushfire season outlook – the season ahead***

Madam Speaker, in looking at the bushfire season ahead, large areas of Southern Australia, including the ACT and the surrounding NSW region will face higher than average bushfire risk for the 2013-14 season. The recent wet weather conditions the ACT has experienced and a continued forecast of a wetter than average spring is expected to bring large amounts of grass growth across the Territory. This could present a problem over summer for grassland fires if a drying trend eventuates over that period.

Forecast indicators point to a dry and hot summer period for the ACT, which could lead to a significant bushfire season.

### ***Preparations for 2013-14 Bushfire season***

Madam Speaker, in preparing for the 2013-14 bushfire season, the Government and the ESA have an obligation to educate the ACT community on the major threats it faces such as bushfires. The ACT bushfire season is expected to commence on 1 October.

Madam Speaker, as always the Government and its emergency services personnel remains prepared for the possible onset of bushfire. As in past years, aviation resources will be made available for the coming season.

Favourable weather over autumn and early winter has assisted the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate for example with a significant number of hazard reduction burns.

Through the existing National Aerial Firefighting Committee contract two helicopters, (one medium and one light 'lift'), will provide coverage to the ACT and surrounding NSW. These aircraft will be in place from late November to early December 2013 based on weather conditions. There will be an ability to request their attendance earlier should circumstances change. The ACTRFS also have access to additional aircraft on an "*call when needed*" basis if required.

Four fire towers positioned at Mount Tennant, Mount Coree, One Tree Hill and Kowen Forest will be available for operation when required from 1 November 2013.

As of 30 June, 2013, the ACTRFS has 550 volunteer firefighters from eight volunteer brigades and a ninth brigade (Parks) from the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate has a further 140 firefighters. The ACTRFS also has available over 50 specialist (RAFT) members, designed to fight fires in remote locations.

In 2012, the ACTRFS installed the new Mobile Data Terminal System. This system manages resources across the ACTRFS and ensures that closest most appropriate resource to be dispatched to an incident. This year it has been upgraded to enable crew member tracking and utilization in remote areas of the ACT, along with an incident reporting capability.

The ACTRFS have identified horse owners as one of our highest risk groups and as such have been working with them to improve their bushfire awareness and resilience. Under the guidance of the ACTRFS and with Federal National Disaster Resilience Program funds the ACT Equestrian Association has produced a horse response trailer to support their community during bushfire and emergency events. The trailer carries the resources to erect 24 (4x4m) temporary pens for the safe containment of evacuated horses; plus additional lead ropes, halters, feed/water buckets, solar generator etc. to support a larger number of horses in a safe and orderly fashion.

Madam Speaker, the ESA have already completed to date the following comprehensive pre-season servicing of RFS and CFU firefighting vehicles:

- 46 Frontline ACTRFS and ACTF&R bushfire vehicles (tankers heavy & medium, light units & CAFS);
- 36 Community Fire Units ; and
- 5 quick fill and RAFT trailers.

## **Closing**

In closing, Madam Speaker, the Government and its emergency services personnel are well prepared to engage in bushfire prevention and suppression activities if they occur during the coming fire season.

Some of the things we as a community can do is to listen to emergency services advice on how to manage fuel hazards in your backyard and completing a Bushfire Survival Plan. This is one way in which we can support the ESA personnel by mitigating the risks of bushfires and avoiding tragedies like the 2003 Canberra bushfires.

Thank you.



# Debates

**WEEKLY HANSARD**

Legislative Assembly for the ACT

**EIGHTH ASSEMBLY**

**18 SEPTEMBER 2013**

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programs that NICTA continues to promote, but he failed to explain how many of these programs his party will slash. I urge all members to support this motion.

Motion agreed to.

## **Bushfires—preparedness**

**MR SMYTH** (Brindabella) (4.49): I move:

That this Assembly:

(1) notes:

- (a) section 72(3) of the Emergencies Act 2004 requires the minister must make a Strategic Bushfire Management Plan for the ACT after considering a draft plan from the Commissioner;
- (b) section 74(2)(k) of the Emergencies Act 2004 states that the plan must have “a statement of resources needed to meet the objectives of the plan”;
- (c) Recommendation 2 (Chapter 3) in the Auditor-General’s Bushfire Preparedness Report No. 5 /2013, identified the government’s failure to comply with the Emergencies Act 2004 to explicitly state all resources to meet the objectives of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan;
- (d) the Justice and Community Safety Directorate’s agreement to Recommendation 2 (Chapter 3) of the Bushfire Preparedness report;
- (e) the minister’s reaffirmation on 8 August 2013 regarding Recommendation 2 (Chapter 3) of the Bushfire Preparedness report that the “government will not be releasing these papers”; and
- (f) the government’s repeated refusal to disclose the territory’s requirement and capability for bushfire management—citing that such information is “not considered appropriate for public release”—in direct contradiction to the Emergencies Act 2004; and

(2) calls on the government to release and make explicit all resources needed to meet the objectives of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan as per the Emergencies Act 2004 by the last sitting day of November 2013.

This is a very simple motion. This motion looks at the requirements of the Emergencies Act 2004 and how they have been implemented by this minister.

It is a very important motion, and I do not think any of us who saw the footage last week of the fires that sprung up so quickly in Sydney and saw the way that they moved and the devastation that they caused would not be concerned about the coming fire season. In fact, the announcement is that we can expect worse than average conditions in south-eastern Australia. That should put everyone on alert that the fire season is now just days away, and if you have not prepared your home and cleared all the debris and done the things that you should do around your house, then you should be doing it this weekend.



We have not had any significant fires in the ACT since 2003. So we have a build-up of 10 years of fuel. And whilst there has been considerable controlled burning, if the fire season starts we have to always be wary and prepared for the season.

Part of the requirement, under the Emergencies Act, of the strategic bushfire management plan is to of course detail what resources are required to meet the bushfire threat. For many years now—and probably the first time I asked the question was in estimates for the 2008-09 budget—we have asked what the NRFS believed was an appropriate list of resources that they needed to do the job properly. Initially those questions were stalled. We had a minister who played dumb, who claimed not to know what had been done. But I understand that all of the heads of service were asked to prepare what they thought was required to carry out their roles and that these were forwarded to the government.

Now we do know they exist, because the minister has plainly admitted that such things have existed, although for years he denied their actual existence. And we know they exist because he answered so to a question on notice. The question on notice and the answer came out of, again, the public hearings of the Select Committee on Estimates. The question was:

Have there been internal reviews conducted by either ESA as a headquarters or the four services as to their requirements and capability, say, in the last five or six years? If you find such reviews—and I am aware of a couple of documents—could you please provide the committee with copies of those reviews?

What was the minister's answer? He said that there had been a number of reviews: the strategic bushfire management plan version 2, the government response to the McLeod recommendations, the Ambulance Service review called the Lennox review, an ESA expenditure review, an ESA financial review, a fleet and procurement review, sustainable resource modelling work and on-call ESA duty officer arrangements. There were a number of other reviews.

Then the final line in the answer was that the other reviews were considered financial, budget or commercial in-confidence or of an internal operational nature—yes, I am sure they are of an internal operational nature—and were not considered appropriate for public release. So it does raise the question: what have the minister and the government been hiding for the last four or five years?

Now that we know that such reviews have been done, that the services have said, "We know exactly what we'd like to have," it all comes to a head when of course the Auditor-General drops the bushfire preparedness report No 5 of 2013, where she says on page 24, in the summary:

The Emergency Services Agency should comply with the Emergencies Act 2004 requirements for the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan by including in this Plan an explicit statement of all resources needed to meet the objectives of the Plan.

Strategic bushfire management plan version 2 does not contain that list. You would have thought it was important the minister ensured that a document he has presented to this place complied with the law. “Comply with the law” is polite speak from the Auditor-General that you have broken the law. You have not complied.

When you go to the chapter about it on page 55, in the key findings, this is a key finding:

The Emergencies Act 2004 provides for the preparation of five-year Strategic Bushfire Management Plans by the Emergency Services Agency. The first Plan was implemented in January 2005. Following a review of its operation, the second Plan was approved in October 2009.

So one would assume, if they are five-year plans, the next one will be in 2014 or thereafter. The report continues:

The processes for the preparation of the 2009 Strategic Bushfire Plan met the requirements of legislation.

The processes did. The outcome did not. The report continues:

Subsection 72(2) of the Emergencies Act 2004 provides a comprehensive list of requirements for the content of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan. The Strategic Bushfire Management Plan meets the majority of these requirements, except for a statement of resources needed to meet the objectives of the plan and the inclusion of a list of privately-owned assets of public interest that are vulnerable to bushfires.

The Emergency Services Agency established an inter-agency Strategic Bushfire Management Plan Implementation Working Group to monitor the implementation of the plan. Recently the group has met infrequently, and its meetings have been poorly attended. The Group has had limited effect.

The Emergency Services Agency’s reporting on the Plan has not been based on required audit and compliance activity, and has not been coordinated with the ACT Bushfire Council or communicated to the ACT community as originally intended.

These are very serious paragraphs. It goes on at page 59 of the report at paragraph 3.8:

Statement of Resources for the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan

3.8 The Strategic Bushfire Management Plan does not include a statement of resources needed to meet the objectives of the Plan. Chapter 6 of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan does, however, outline an intent—

and we would all be very grateful, when the next bushfire hits, for the intent—

by the Emergency Services Agency to consider the resources required over the life of the Plan. It notes ‘the resourcing of this Plan may require additional funding and will be determined in the context of whole-of-government budget considerations over the life of the Plan.’

Paragraph 3.9 states:

Section 76 of the Emergencies Act 2004 provides that, after the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan is approved by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Emergency Services Agency must conduct an assessment, based on the Plan, of available resources and capabilities for bushfire prevention and preparedness. This assessment must be given to the ACT Bushfire Council and the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

Paragraph 3.10 states:

The Emergency Services Agency conducted an assessment of additional resources it required—

so we know they have got it—

to implement specific activities in the Plan. This assessment did not include an assessment of all resources needed, including existing resources, and the assessment was not provided to the ACT Bushfire Council.

And then recommendation 2 states:

The Emergency Services Agency should comply with the *Emergencies Act 2004* requirements for the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan by including in this Plan an explicit statement of all resources needed to meet the objectives of the Plan.

This very serious allegation, or very serious words from the Auditor-General, does follow up on the years of questions that I have asked in successive annual reports hearings and in estimates as to when these documents will be made public.

It is interesting when you actually go to the strategic bushfire management plan that on page 51, part 6, under the heading “Resource Requirements”—so the minister knew that it had to be there—it states:

The resourcing of this Plan may require additional funding and will be determined in the context of whole-of-government budget considerations over the life of the Plan.

The various elements and aspects of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan will generate demands on the agencies and individuals ... In some cases these may be significant across the life of the plan and will require specific calculation and procuring.

It goes on to say:

Hence the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan is for 10 years.

So we have a situation where we have a law, and it is actually a law this government passed. It is their own Emergencies Act 2004. In it is the requirement that the resources that are needed to fight a bushfire be listed, and it is to be in the management plan. It is not.

An audit is to be done after the plan is published, and that is to be handed to the minister and the Bushfire Council. It has not. And this has all happened on Mr Corbell's watch as minister. There is a problem here, because people of the ACT, after 2003, deserve to know with some degree of certainty that they have got the resources in place to be protected should another fire occur.

The minister, in dismissing most of this report, has said, "The Auditor-General has said we have got a robust framework." A robust framework is not going to put the fire out. The permanent officers and the volunteers and the equipment provided will. And if you have not done the assessment, you have not provided the equipment and you have not got the volunteers to take those units into the field, then you are not meeting your responsibility.

In that, this minister has been negligent. He has been negligent by allowing the law to be broken. He has been negligent by not ensuring that the Bushfire Council received, according to the Auditor-General, the audit and the assessment which have to be provided. He has been negligent for years in hiding the reports that I have asked for. And I think we know why he has hidden the reports that have been requested: because it involves expenditure, expenditure this government has not been willing to put into making sure the RFS has what it needs to do its job.

No doubt, the minister will stand up and say, "The budget has gone up over the years." Yes, it has. I am not aware of a budget of a government department that does not go up annually. Very few of them ever go backwards. "We're building a few fire stations." That is probably a good thing. But in the context of meeting the fire season, when will the minister tell us what is required, according to the determination?

Remember, for years the minister initially played dumb and said there were no such reports. Now he is saying they are financial, budget, commercial-in-confidence or not considered appropriate for public release. That is slightly different to what the department said. The department has realised it has now been caught out by the Auditor-General, and on page 24 of the response, where the auditor says it should be in the management plan, the Justice and Community Safety Directorate states:

Agreed. This will be included as part of the development of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan Version 3 which has commenced.

That is admirable, and I am sure having highlighted the fact that you have not complied with the law, you will have it in the next one. But what about the existing one?

There is no reason for this list not to be made available today. The minister could have brought it down today. But what the motion calls for is that—and we will give the minister some time—by the last sitting day in November this year the minister table the list. Part (2) of my motion calls on the government to release and make explicit all resources needed to meet the objectives of the strategic bushfire management plan as per the Emergencies Act 2004 by the last sitting day of November 2013.

I do not think that is such a big request. The work, if it has not been done, should be done. If the audit is not complete, then complete it. If you have got a requirement under the law to do something, then you should do it. And there is an explicit acknowledgement in the plan that was brought out in 2009 that it requires additional funding. Then you need to get the funding.

The report states:

The resourcing of this Plan may require additional funding and will be determined in the context of the whole-of-government budget considerations over the life of the Plan.

If this is a five-year plan and it finishes next year, then, obviously, it has not been done. And so it calls into doubt the minister's will or the minister's ability to be a proper minister for emergency services.

These are important issues. There are still people who bear the scars, physical and psychological, of what happened 10 years ago. And on days when there is smoke in the air I still get phone calls from people saying, "What's going on? What's happening?" I know people who are very nervous still about what happened in 2003. And I think it is important that they can look at the service and say that the government has given the service what is required.

I acknowledge the service, I acknowledge the full-time professional officers and the work they do, and particularly I acknowledge the volunteers. I note Minister Corbell is coming to the Guises Creek bushfire brigade's 20th anniversary celebration on 12 October this year. There are a lot of volunteers out there who know what is required. We have got a council who knows what is required. And I would ask members to look at this motion and say it is not unreasonable to ask the government to comply with the law and do so in a timely fashion.

Their self-acknowledgement in their own plan is from 2009, four years ago, that they would have to do this, and it has not been done. It is not unreasonable that the minister comply with this over the next two months, particularly, I think, given the fire season that we are facing, with the warm winter that we have had and the lack of rain—although the last couple of days has put a dint in the lack of rain. If the rain does not continue, all that will have done is promoted some spring growth and added to the fuel burden.

This is a reasonable motion. It is a reasonable request. It brings the government into compliance with the law. And I ask the Assembly for their support.

**MR CORBELL** (Molonglo—Attorney-General, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations and Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development) (5.05): While I acknowledge the issues that Mr Smyth raises in his motion today, the motion is, from the government's perspective, completely unnecessary. Indeed, as Mr Smyth has outlined in his own motion, the Justice and Community Safety Directorate has already agreed to the

recommendation to include an explicit statement of resources needed to meet the objectives of the plan at the time. As has been outlined in the Auditor-General's report, the directorate stated that this explicit statement of resources would be included as part of the development of the next strategic bushfire management plan.

The government has welcomed the release of the Auditor-General's report because it praises the framework that the government has in place for bushfire preparedness. The government has welcomed the Auditor-General's conclusion that the government has in place a robust governance and planning framework for its bushfire management activities.

I have already on several occasions responded to Mr Smyth's call to release the emergency services requirements and capability data. Following the estimates hearing for the ESA on 19 June this year, I provided a detailed response to Mr Smyth regarding the provision of internal reviews conduct by the ESA over the past six years. I provided that response to the select committee on estimates. I also provided further information in response to inquiries from the *Canberra Times* in relation to Mr Smyth's media release on the issue earlier this year.

The Auditor-General recommended that the ESA should comply with the requirements of the act for the strategic bushfire management plan by including in the plan an explicit statement of all resources needed. The auditor went on to say that the ESA conducted an assessment of additional resources it required to implement specific activities in the plan but concluded that the plan did not provide an explicit statement of resources.

As I have indicated earlier, the Justice and Community Safety Directorate has accepted this recommendation and is moving forward to include it in the new version 3 of the SBMP. However, Mr Smyth's request that this be done during the life of the current plan, a plan that is coming to an end, is really not a good use of the government's resources, financial or otherwise, at this time. The plan will come to an end in October next year. Any provision of resources to support it will need to be considered in the forthcoming budget cycle.

The directorate agreed that recommendation 2 of the audit report is an area for improvement. The ESA and my directorate have stated in the response to this recommendation that a statement of resources:

... will be included as part of the development of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan version 3 ...

Furthermore, the statement of resources will be required to deliver each element of version 3 of the plan under the framework of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. This statement of resources will also be able to identify the necessary functions, capability, equipment and infrastructure that the government and its directorates require to deliver version 3 of the plan.

So Mr Smyth's assertions that the government failed to comply with the act by not explicitly stating all resources to meet the objectives of the plan is a gross overstatement of what has actually been concluded by the Auditor-General.

With respect to Mr Smyth's assertion that he or the select committee on estimates were not provided with certain documents, I say that after the estimates hearing in June this year the government provided copies of a range of bushfire management related reviews conducted by the ESA. These reviews comprehensively address a broad range of issues around bushfire management and response capability, including, in the SBMP version 2, the government's agreed recommendations from the McLeod and Doogan coronial inquiries and associated implementation reports.

There is plenty of evidence on the public record that demonstrates the work and the significant financial commitment this government has made to increasing bushfire preparedness in the ACT.

As everyone in this place is very much aware, Mr Assistant Speaker, an extensive performance audit was conducted by the Auditor-General. I thank her for this work. The final audit report, released in July this year and tabled in the Assembly, outlines a range of largely administrative recommendations designed to further improve and enhance the governance arrangements in relation to bushfires. The government is finally concluding its overall submission to the public accounts inquiry in response to this latest audit report. I am, though, very pleased that the Auditor-General concluded that the government's prevention and preparedness activities position the community to meet the challenges of living in the bush capital. The Auditor-General found that the legislation the government has in place, the strategic bushfire management plan and its operational plans provide the framework needed to manage the risk of bushfires in the ACT.

The audit report will certainly contribute to further strengthening bushfire management and preparedness governance in the territory, and it provides us with an assurance that ESA staff and volunteers are working well to ensure they are ready to respond to, and the community is prepared for, major bushfires. The audit report provides the government with the opportunity to respond to change and seek to continually improve the provision and management of bushfire activities in the prevention, preparedness and response spaces.

The government will take the next steps to build on the current planning framework, compliance and operational capability. We will be seeking to strengthen our relationship further with the community to promote resilience, understanding and managing the risks associated with living in the bush capital. The approach of shared responsibility has been a constant theme for the past decade. The Auditor-General's report and recommendations support the government's commitment to building further on that shared responsibility through the resilience and capacity of both the community and the government's agencies.

We can all listen to the words and the reports, but the most telling demonstration of the government's work and the work of our emergency services to learn the lessons of 2003 can be seen in actions rather than words. The elevated bushfire conditions earlier in January this year, with fires in and around the ACT and New South Wales, resulted in the successful activation and implementation of a number of plans demonstrating their effectiveness across the ESA and whole of government. We saw multiple

lightning strikes in Namadgi national park, and we knew we only had about 48 hours before a very dangerous north-westerly wind change and elevated very high temperature conditions arrived. If those fires were not extinguished, we had every reason to believe they would spread and become a major fire heading towards the western interface of the ACT.

Because of the dedicated work of our fire and other emergency services, both paid and volunteer personnel, we were able to extinguish those fires using some of the technologies that this government has invested in since 2003—mechanisms like automatic lightning detection so that we know where lightning hits the ground and we can send the crews to a precise location to ensure that if there has been an ignition it is able to be rapidly addressed. We saw the deployment of remote area firefighting teams and a dedicated capability now in place because of the investments this government made after the 2003 fires. We also saw vehicles and crews on the ground responding with the appropriate weight of response for the significance of the event. The fires were put out. The ignitions were dealt with, and they were dealt with before those very dangerous high fire danger conditions arrived.

Actions speak louder than words, Mr Assistant Speaker. I think that tells us everything we need to know about the lessons we have learnt since 2003.

The Auditor-General made 24 recommendations in the performance audit report on the ACT's bushfire preparedness. The directorate agreed or agreed in part to all of those recommendations, and the details of these responses are stated in the audit report. The audit report identified "some areas of improvement", which my directorate will address in consultation and cooperation with other ACT government agencies.

Turning to the strategic bushfire management plan itself, version 2 of the plan was released in October 2009. The development of version 2 included consideration of the interim findings of the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission, the coronial inquiry into the 2003 Canberra firestorm and the national framework for scaled bushfire advice and bushfire warnings released in 2009. The plan identifies a wide range of activities for bushfire prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, which required additional funding to undertake key programs identified in the plan. The ESA and the government as a whole continue to implement the strategies in the SBMP.

Further, under the Emergencies Act some land managers are required to prepare bushfire operational plans that are consistent with the policies and strategies in the SBMP. These plans identify the detailed actions, such as hazard reduction, trail maintenance and grazing, that land managers must undertake to meet bushfire management requirements.

I am pleased to advise members of the Assembly that work on the review and development of the new SBMP version 3 has commenced in compliance with section 80 of the act, which states that I, as the minister, must, in consultation with the ACT Bushfire Council, comprehensively review the plan at intervals of not more than five years. Version 3 of the plan is anticipated to be completed by the end of October 2014.



In addition to the SBMP, a series of important emergency plans have been developed or updated since 2003. From a whole of government perspective, the ACT emergency plan describes the responsibilities, authorities and mechanisms to prevent or, if they occur, manage emergencies and their consequences consistent with the Emergencies Act.

The community communication and information plan is an approved subplan of the ACT emergency plan and outlines how the government will communicate with the public when there is a threat of or an actual emergency in the territory. It details the processes for all communications staff across government to come together to work as one with emergency services media teams to ensure a single point of truth for the dissemination of all public information during a major incident. We saw this plan activated during the heightened fire conditions last summer, and I think we demonstrated the worth of those arrangements at that time.

As part of the ESA's continued efforts to improve governance arrangements in fighting bushfires between operational services such as the ACT RFS and ACT Fire & Rescue, a *Concept of operations* document for bush and grass fires in the ACT commissioner's guidelines has been created. *Concept of operations* is a capstone document that establishes, at the strategic level, the principles for managing bush and grass fires occurring on any fire danger rated day from low through to catastrophic. In addition to *Concept of operations*, we recognised the need to ensure that the territory is sufficiently prepared to manage bush and grass fires under the worst possible conditions. In recognition that the factors, such as fuel state and climate variables, that drive these worst possible outcomes vary from year to year, the fire services will jointly advise the commissioner prior to each fire season on the key risk factors and the most likely worst-case scenario for the coming season.

All this demonstrates that the government has undertaken an extensive and ongoing reform agenda to strengthen the capability and the government's framework for managing bushfires in the ACT. The audit report is an important contribution to this ongoing effort. We need to continually see improvement, enhancement and refinement of our bushfire operational planning and response capabilities. The audit report is a significant assistance in that regard, but it is also a strong endorsement of the governance and planning arrangements that are in place and the fact that, as a government and as a community, we have clearly and comprehensively learned the lessons of the 2003 disaster.

The government will not be supporting this motion today, for the reasons that I have outlined in my comments.

**MR RATTENBURY** (Molonglo—Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Minister for Corrections, Minister for Housing, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs and Minister for Ageing) (5.18): Mr Smyth's motion, of course, comes at a time when the ACT is facing a potentially very hazardous bushfire season. Members may have seen the report in the *Canberra Times* published on 3 September in which the Emergency Services Commissioner, Dominic Lane, outlined that there is potential for a very high fire danger this season with above average rainfall over the

previous three months, coupled with more forecast rain that would build up the fuel. He went on to say that if there is a significant drying out period the ACT will face a significant grassland problem, as we did last summer, as well as potential for forested areas. Basically, we are looking at a very significant season. To my mind, that is the important context that frames the discussion we are having today.

In his remarks—and I might paraphrase slightly—Mr Smyth talked about the important measure being about what is actually being done; essentially, what you do is what matters. From a TAMS perspective, I know that TAMS takes its responsibilities for both bushfire preparation and bushfire fighting extremely seriously. Certainly, through last season I had just become the minister and I took some fairly regular briefings, given the heightened threat last season. The staff in TAMS take their responsibilities incredibly seriously. A number of them, of course, as members will know, were around in 2003 and they remember it very vividly. I think their experience has brought considerable improvement in the agency, and certainly there is no question about their focus.

In terms of what TAMS has been doing, earlier this year I released some information about the work that had been going on, including the ACT's largest hazard reduction program in 40 years being successfully completed as part of the 2012-13 bushfire operations plan, which was undertaken in close collaboration with the Rural Fire Service. The information I released included the fact that 96 per cent of the bushfire operation plan had been completed, which included 42 controlled burns, 8,000 hectares of slashing, 7,000 hectares of grazing, 74 hectares of physical fuel removal and over 650 kilometres of fire trail maintenance and upgrade. Part of that included the very significant controlled burn in Namadgi National Park, which was actually the biggest in the ACT in over 30 years. It took 13 days to complete, after several months of planning, and covered an area of 6,000 hectares.

There are many more examples of what TAMS has been doing. To that end, I will table a document entitled "Territory and Municipal Services—Bush Fire Operational Plan—Final full year report—June 2013". This outlines in rather more detail than I will give through this speech—members can read it if they are interested—some of the work that TAMS has been doing. This document has been given to the Emergency Services Agency and the Bushfire Council. I would note that, in giving it to the ESA commissioner, the ESA will review it and there may be further commentary and advice back to TAMS. Therefore, I table the document with the note that there may still be some changes or additional information in light of that review process. This is the document that TAMS has provided. It outlines the very significant amount of work that has been undertaken. In some areas where there has not been 100 per cent completion it includes explanations as to why, and it also outlines unforeseen and additional tasks that were undertaken. For the information of members, I present the following paper:

Territory and Municipal Services—Bush Fire Operational Plan—Final full year  
report—June 2013, dated 1 July 2013

I have, of course, taken note, as the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, of the Auditor-General's report. I have asked TAMS to provide me with an update—and

I expect to have that in the near future—around the detailed responses to those recommendations made by the Auditor-General. Overall, the Auditor-General's comments were that there has been a lot of improvement in the way things are done. I think there are some findings in there which obviously require a level of follow-up. I certainly expect my agency to take those findings very seriously and keep me updated on the implementation of that.

In terms of Mr Smyth's specific motion, I personally think this is fairly non-contentious in that, on my reading of the Auditor-General's report, JACS has agreed to exactly the request that Mr Smyth has made. So on that basis I have no qualms with supporting the motion in the sense that the commitment is already there to provide that information.

I think the question that does stand is whether the end of November is the relevant time frame. I did not gather from Mr Corbell's comments whether that time frame is a specific issue or not. I am certainly open to that time frame being amended should that be unsuitable. Given that JACS has agreed to provide this information, I do not see any reason not to support the motion.

**MR SMYTH** (Brindabella) (5.24), in reply: It is curious the approach of both the ministers that now that it has been brought to their attention by the Auditor-General they will do something 12 months from now. If Mr Rattenbury thinks that that is acceptable, good luck to him, because a lot can happen in 12 months. Recall that in 2009 when the plan was dropped they have had four years in which to comply with the law. I think this curious, perhaps, juxtaposition of the Attorney-General saying, "Non-compliance with the law has been brought to my attention, but I'll let it go on for another 12 months" is most unfortunate.

To say that the department has now agreed to comply with the law and will do it 12 months from now is not to honour the act. It is not to enforce the act and it is not to enforce the resourcing of chapter 6 in strategic management bushfire plan 2 which said that it will be done over the life of this plan. It is unfortunate that the minister for emergency services is going to take that approach. He has these documents. He has been told by his officers what is required. He knows what that requirement is. My understanding is that it was not just for the Rural Fire Service. It was for the Ambulance Service and the SES, as well as the fire and rescue service. If the minister has had something brought to his attention—this is where ministerial responsibility kicks in—and he does not act on it and something untoward happens, it will be on that minister's head.

Remember, this is the minister that wanted, for instance, to get rid of the fire management unit. It was almost done, and I give the Greens credit for their support when I moved the motion to save the fire management unit. That unit is working incredibly well. It had the support of everyone from the Volunteer Brigades Association through to the comms council. Everyone agreed, except for this minister. His judgement was flawed then and his response today is flawed. He has a requirement to fulfil the law and to ensure that his agencies fulfil the law. He has had a number of documents over a number of years now that tell him what is required, but he has suppressed those documents. He refuses now to comply and is being aided and abetted by you, Mr Rattenbury.

I acknowledge the good work. I congratulate the ESA and I extend these congratulations to the officers from TAMS, who have done a good job as well. But if we want them to continue to do a good job then we need to give them the tools.

**Mr Rattenbury:** You can't help yourself. I just agreed to support your motion.

**MR SMYTH:** Sorry?

**Mr Rattenbury:** I agreed to support your motion and you're still having a go at me. You cannot help yourself.

**MR SMYTH:** I thought you said you were not supporting the motion.

**Mr Rattenbury:** No, I said I'm supporting your motion. You can't help yourself.

**MR SMYTH:** If you are going to support the motion, thank you. Thank you for that.

**Mr Corbell:** You weren't paying attention. You're just absolutely hopeless.

**MR SMYTH:** I apologise. He is going to vote for it. That is lovely. Thank you, Mr Rattenbury. Thank you. But it is a shame that the minister has taken this approach. It is a shame that Mr Corbell—

**Mr Corbell:** Well done, Brendan; well done.

**MR SMYTH:** I have apologised, Simon. You lack grace; you lack grace.

**Mr Corbell:** You lack attention.

**MR SMYTH:** No, I think it was ambiguous. I questioned him when he finished whether he was supporting it or not. But the problem for us is that we have an Attorney-General who acts as a minister for emergency services who does not want to do this. I thank Mr Rattenbury for his support. I compliment the staff of TAMS. They know they have my support as a former minister and they know from some of the work before the last election in saving the fire management unit that I believe in and support the work that they do. They know that.

I would thank Mr Rattenbury for his support. I would say to Mr Corbell that I think he needs to have a serious think about his approach to these issues. It is interesting there is a press release out—"Corbell accuses Liberals of 'point scoring' on bushfire management"—reported on the ABC. It is not point scoring when, one, you have not complied with the law. It is not point scoring when it would be hard now for the public to understand whether or not you actually are prepared for the fire season. It is impossible for the public to determine whether or not they have enough equipment and the resources to meet the season's requirements.

It is interesting that Mr Corbell said that somehow I had grossly overstated what the Auditor-General had said. I will just finish with what the Auditor-General said:

The Emergency Services Agency should comply with the *Emergencies Act 2004* requirements for the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan by including in this Plan an explicit statement of all resources needed to meet the objectives of the Plan.

It is not a year from now. It is not in the next one. It is now. You should comply with the law now. I thank Mr Rattenbury for his support.

Motion agreed to.

## Planning

MR COE (Ginninderra) (5.29): I move:

That this Assembly:

(1) notes that:

- (a) the ACT Government has taken an ad hoc approach to planning;
- (b) the Territory Plan is excessively complex and is stifling appropriate development, innovation and investment in Canberra;
- (c) there is a lack of confidence in the planning system by residents, builders, planners and industry groups;
- (d) Variation 306 has been destructive for the building and property sectors;
- (e) there has been a lack of planning clarity with regard to development in the city such that the city is being drawn in all directions:
  - (i) to the west with City West, New Acton and the ANU Exchange developments;
  - (ii) to the north with redevelopment in Braddon;
  - (iii) to the south with the City to the Lake proposal; and
  - (iv) to the east with Draft Variation 308;
- (f) funding has been provided through the Commonwealth Government's "Liveable Cities Program" to develop a City Plan yet significant planning decisions have been made in the interim; and
- (g) the ACT Government failed to sell Denman Prospect and as such, the ACT Government will be developing the site; and

(2) calls on the Government to:

- (a) undertake a thorough review of the Territory Plan with a view to simplifying the document and making the Plan more accessible and comprehensible;



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE  
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2012–2013

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No. 33

WEDNESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2013

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- 1 The Assembly met at 10 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (Mrs Dunne) took the Chair and asked Members to stand in silence and pray or reflect on their responsibilities to the people of the Australian Capital Territory.
- 2 **URIARRA VILLAGE—PROPOSED SOLAR FARM—PETITION PRESENTED**  
Mr Wall, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:
  - (1) notes:
    - (a) the definitive language used by the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development when awarding licences to two new large scale solar developments on 19 August 2013, “two new solar farms will be developed in Canberra as a result of the Solar Auction process”;
    - (b) a site opposite Uriarra Village at Coree was chosen for a seven megawatt development; and
    - (c) residents of Uriarra were not aware the site opposite the village was being considered for a large scale solar development until after the announcement was made; and
  - (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
    - (a) consider and acknowledge the overwhelming sentiment of the community of Uriarra Village to relocate the large scale solar project away from the village;
    - (b) ensure the project does not proceed at the current location;
    - (c) consult with the proponent to identify an alternate site that will not significantly impact on a residential area; and



## 6 STRATEGIC BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mr Smyth, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
  - (a) section 72(3) of the *Emergencies Act 2004* requires the Minister must make a Strategic Bushfire Management Plan for the ACT after considering a draft plan from the Commissioner;
  - (b) section 74(2)(k) of the *Emergencies Act 2004* states that the plan must have “a statement of resources needed to meet the objectives of the plan”;
  - (c) Recommendation 2 (Chapter 3) in the Auditor-General’s Bushfire Preparedness Report No. 5 /2013, identified the Government’s failure to comply with the *Emergencies Act 2004* to explicitly state all resources to meet the objectives of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan;
  - (d) the Justice and Community Safety Directorate’s agreement to Recommendation 2 (Chapter 3) of the Bushfire Preparedness report;
  - (e) the Minister’s reaffirmation on 8 August 2013 regarding Recommendation 2 (Chapter 3) of the Bushfire Preparedness report that the “Government will not be releasing these papers”; and
  - (f) the Government’s repeated refusal to disclose the Territory’s requirement and capability for bushfire management—citing that such information is “not considered appropriate for public release”—in direct contradiction to the *Emergencies Act 2004*; and
- (2) calls on the Government to release and make explicit all resources needed to meet the objectives of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan as per the *Emergencies Act 2004* by the last sitting day of November 2013.

Debate ensued.

*Paper:* Mr Rattenbury presented the following paper:

Territory and Municipal Services—Bush Fire Operational Plan—Final full year report—June 2013, dated 1 July 2013.

Debate continued.

Question—put and passed.

## 7 PLANNING IN THE A.C.T.

Mr Coe, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
  - (a) the ACT Government has taken an ad hoc approach to planning;
  - (b) the Territory Plan is excessively complex and is stifling appropriate development, innovation and investment in Canberra;
  - (c) there is a lack of confidence in the planning system by residents, builders, planners and industry groups;
  - (d) Variation 306 has been destructive for the building and property sectors;



# Debates

WEEKLY HANSARD

Legislative Assembly for the ACT

**EIGHTH ASSEMBLY**

**28 NOVEMBER 2013**

[www.hansard.act.gov.au](http://www.hansard.act.gov.au)



Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency—Annual Report 2012/13—  
Regulating health practitioners in the public interest.

**Mr Corbell** presented the following papers:

Beyond the Binary: legal recognition of sex and gender diversity in the ACT—  
Report by the ACT Law Reform Advisory Council—Revised Government  
response, dated November 2013.

Strategic Bushfire Management Plan—Resources needed to meet objectives,  
Government response pursuant to the resolution of the Assembly of 18  
September 2013.

## **Planning and Development Act—variation No 305 to the territory plan**

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

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

Planning and Development Act, pursuant to subsection 79(1)—Approval of  
Variation No. 305 to the Territory Plan—Mugga Lane Resource Management  
Centre—Jerrabomberra Block 2247, dated 21 November 2013, together with  
background papers, a copy of the summaries and reports, and a copy of any  
direction or report required.

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

Leave granted.

**MR CORBELL:** Variation 305 proposes to amend the territory plan to accommodate consideration of the expansion of the existing Mugga Lane Resource Management Centre onto adjoining block 2247 Jerrabomberra. Block 2247 is currently included in the NUZ1 broadacre zone in which landfill is prohibited. Variation 305 amends the territory plan by extending the site-specific provision applying to the existing landfill land onto block 2247 to make landfill a permissible use.

There is a long-term need for a landfill facility in the ACT. ACT NOWaste has implemented many initiatives to increase recycling and resource recovery. The ACT waste management strategy aims to increase the rate of resource recovery to over 90 per cent by 2025 with no recoverable waste sent to landfill.

However, the ACT is running out of landfill space. The existing facility at Mugga Lane is anticipated to reach capacity in 2015-16. A number of options were considered before deciding to expand the existing facility. The proposal was considered to be the most efficient and effective option to accommodate the waste disposal needs of the ACT community over the next 30 years.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE  
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2012–2013

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No. 43

THURSDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2013

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1 The Assembly met at 10 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (Mrs Dunne) took the Chair and asked Members to stand in silence and pray or reflect on their responsibilities to the people of the Australian Capital Territory.

2 **REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT—SELECT COMMITTEE—ESTABLISHMENT—REPORTING DATE—AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION**

Ms Berry (Chair), by leave, moved—That the resolution of the Assembly of 28 February 2013 establishing the Select Committee on Regional Development, as amended on 17 September 2013, be amended by omitting the words “shall report no later than the last sitting day in November 2013” and substituting “shall report no later than the first sitting week in February 2014”.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

3 **NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED**

Ms Burch (Minister for Disability, Children and Young People), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning the National Disability Insurance Scheme and presented the following paper:

National Disability Insurance Scheme—Ministerial statement, dated 28 November 2013.

Ms Burch moved—That the Assembly takes note of the paper.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.



**4 TOTALISATOR BILL 2013**

Ms Burch (Minister for Racing and Gaming), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to provide for the conduct of totalisators and the regulation of totalisator betting, and for other purposes.

*Papers:* Ms Burch presented the following papers:

Explanatory statement to the Bill.

Human Rights Act, pursuant to section 37—Compatibility statement.

Title read by Clerk.

Ms Burch moved—That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

Debate adjourned (Mr Smyth) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**5 COURTS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2013**

Mr Corbell (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend legislation about courts, and for other purposes.

*Papers:* Mr Corbell presented the following papers:

Explanatory statement to the Bill.

Human Rights Act, pursuant to section 37—Compatibility statement.

Title read by Clerk.

Mr Corbell moved—That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

Debate adjourned (Mr Hanson—Leader of the Opposition) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**6 ROAD TRANSPORT (ALCOHOL AND DRUGS) AMENDMENT BILL 2013**

Mr Corbell (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Road Transport (Alcohol and Drugs) Act 1977*.

*Papers:* Mr Corbell presented the following papers:

Explanatory statement to the Bill.

Human Rights Act, pursuant to section 37—Compatibility statement.

Title read by Clerk.

Mr Corbell moved—That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

Debate adjourned (Mr Hanson—Leader of the Opposition) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**7 BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION AMENDMENT BILL 2013**

Mr Corbell (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1997*, and for other purposes.

**19 PRESENTATION OF PAPER**

Mr Corbell (Attorney-General) presented the following paper:

Beyond the Binary: legal recognition of sex and gender diversity in the ACT—Report by the ACT Law Reform Advisory Council—Revised Government response, dated November 2013.

**20 PRESENTATION OF PAPER**

Mr Corbell (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) presented the following paper:

Strategic Bushfire Management Plan—Resources needed to meet objectives, Government response pursuant to the resolution of the Assembly of 18 September 2013.

**21 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT—APPROVAL—VARIATION NO. 305 TO THE TERRITORY PLAN—MUGGA LANE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CENTRE—JERRABOMBERRA BLOCK 2247—PAPER AND STATEMENT BY MINISTER**

Mr Corbell (Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development) presented the following paper:

Planning and Development Act, pursuant to subsection 79(1)—Approval of Variation No. 305 to the Territory Plan—Mugga Lane Resource Management Centre—Jerrabomberra Block 2247, dated 21 November 2013, together with background papers, a copy of the summaries and reports, and a copy of any direction or report required—

and, by leave, made a statement in relation to the paper.

**22 PRESENTATION OF PAPER**

Mr Corbell (Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development) presented the following paper:

Planning and Development Act, pursuant to subsection 242(2)—Schedule of Leases Granted—1 April to 30 June 2013—Corrigendum.

**23 PAPER—PETITION OUT-OF-ORDER—STATEMENT BY MEMBER**

Mr Corbell (Manager of Government Business) presented the following paper:

Petition which does not conform with the standing orders—Women's Information and Referral Centre—Mrs Jones (690 signatures).

Mrs Jones, by leave, made a statement in relation to the paper.

**24 GAMING MACHINE ACT—COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY GAMING MACHINE LICENSEES—REPORT BY THE ACT GAMBLING AND RACING COMMISSION—PAPER AND STATEMENT BY MINISTER**

Ms Burch (Minister for Racing and Gaming) presented the following paper:

Gaming Machine Act, pursuant to section 168—Community contributions made by Gaming Machine Licensees—Report by the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission—1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, dated 24 October 2013—

and, by leave, made a statement in relation to the paper.