

Second joint meeting between the ACT Labor Government and the ACT Greens

30 June 2009

COMMUNIQUE

The ACT Labor Government and the ACT Greens today met to report formally on progress towards the implementation of their Parliamentary Agreement. This is the second of the four-monthly meetings to discuss progress on the Agreement, which was signed on 31 October 2008.

The Government and the Greens have today confirmed that 40 items from the Parliamentary Agreement have now been implemented, another 4 have been partially completed, a further 23 are in the process of being implemented and options are being developed regarding the delivery of another 20 actions. It has been agreed the remaining 12 items will be the subject of further discussion before being progressed.

Actions implemented in full since the last progress meeting, held on 19 February 2009, include:

- Funding appropriated for the reestablishment of an inner south public library service;
- Funding for additional resources for the Forensic Mental Health team at the Magistrate's Court;
- The transfer of the Assembly Library to the Assembly's secretariat;
- Funding for a free legal service for people experiencing homelessness;
- A call for expressions of interest in a solar power station;
- Greater resources for cycling infrastructure and an additional \$500,000 per annum of footpath upgrades;
- Early implementation of Stage 1 of the Government's Feed-in Tariff;
- Acceleration of urban creek and wetlands projects including Sullivans Creek; and
- A new Standing Order requiring that all Government amendments to Bills will not be able to be debated unless a scrutiny report from the Scrutiny of Bills Committee has been provided or unless the Assembly agrees the amendment is of an urgent, minor or merely technical nature.

Actions being implemented but not yet fully completed include:

- New Park & Ride facility at Mawson and funding for feasibility studies to investigate locations for facilities at Erindale and Mitchell;
- Standing Committee established on greenhouse gas reduction;
- Planning for a pilot small and micro business forum in conjunction with Focus on Business Month, to test new ways of engaging the small and micro business communities.
- Funding for the development of a Future Waste strategy to include commercial, electronic and organic waste disposal;
- Establishment of an Assembly inquiry into the achievement gap and needs of students with a disability;

- Pilot of gender analysis report in ACT Women's Health Services Plan;
and
- Consultancy with the University of Canberra to conduct a scoping study as the first step in the development of a green economy strategy.

The meeting was constructive and productive, allowing both parties to identify areas of the Agreement which would benefit from further work and discussion. The next Joint Meeting to report on progress on the Parliamentary Agreement will be held in four month's time.