

**Supply-and-Confidence Agreement for the
11th Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory**

This Agreement is between:

Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Leader of ACT Labor,
The ACT Labor MLAs elected for the 11th Assembly

And

Mr Thomas Emerson MLA, Independent Member for Kurrajong

Without limiting his independence or the scope of his work as an MLA beyond the terms of this agreement, Mr Emerson agrees:

1. to engage in good faith with ACT Labor MLAs and work collaboratively to achieve the best possible outcomes for our community.
2. to support Mr Barr in the Chief Minister vote on Wednesday 6 November 2024.
3. to support the passage of Appropriation Bills for the ordinary annual services of Government.
4. not to move or support any motions of no confidence, except in instances of:
 - a. proven corruption;
 - b. gross negligence;
 - c. conduct that threatens public confidence in the integrity of government or public administration;
 - d. breaches of the Ministerial Code of Conduct; or
 - e. other instances of reprehensible conduct.

Opposition, or amendment, to a specific Government Bill, executive motion or other parliamentary initiative does not equate to a lack of confidence.

5. to comply with the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988* with respect to Private Members Business; and
6. to consult with the responsible Minister where a Private Members Bill is developed to ensure, as much as possible, the Bill is technically correct and does not have unintended consequences.
7. that he may seek information on portfolio matters from the responsible Minister and, if a reasonable level of information is not provided or a briefing is not arranged with the Ministerial office within a reasonable timeframe, he may raise the matter with the Chief Minister or his Office for resolution.

Without limiting the scope of their policy objectives beyond the terms of this agreement, Mr Barr and ACT Labor agree:

1. to engage in good faith with Mr Emerson and work collaboratively to achieve the best possible outcomes for our community.
2. for officials to provide information, briefings and written responses to specific questions asked by Mr Emerson through Ministers' offices.

Public and Community Housing

3. to increase public and community housing as an overall proportion of total ACT residential dwellings, noting that this must be a long-term trajectory given the Government's focus on increasing overall housing supply. This work includes collaboration with the Federal Government and relevant stakeholders in the ACT and surrounds to maximise available financial and human resources to build more homes.

Elective Surgeries

4. to examine new methods to further reduce elective surgery wait times, complementing ACT Labor's pre-existing commitment to carry out 70,000 surgeries over the next four years.

Frontline Park Rangers

5. to increase the number of in-field park rangers by 10, equal to an overall increase in rangers of 33 per cent, to support environmental conservation efforts and invasive species management in the ACT.

Strata Commissioner

6. to establish a Strata Commissioner to protect the interests of people in apartments, townhouses and other strata-titled dwellings, with retirement villages included in its remit. This would be complementary to existing commitments to establish a rental ombudsman.

Criminal Justice Reform

7. to stand up a comprehensive, holistic, Assembly-led committee inquiry, or a set of more targeted inquiries to allow more immediate action, into ACT's criminal justice system to investigate rates of reoffending, youth offending and diversion, policing approaches and resources, justice reinvestment, corrections, and the Alexander Maconochie Centre.

Supply-and-Confidence Agreement

Community Sport

8. to engage community sport stakeholders through regular forums, to which the Sports Minister will invite Mr Emerson twice a year, and to deliver longer-term infrastructure planning to maintain and improve sporting facilities across the ACT in close collaboration with the community sport sector.

Community Sector

9. to strengthen the role of our community services sector in supporting vulnerable community members by, in consultation with community support organisations, reviewing funding for the sector prior to the 2025-26 Budget. Findings of the review would be progressed through the upcoming budget and subsequent budgets, ensuring funding provided accounts for growth in population, sector salaries, and complexity of client need.

Local Businesses

10. to support an inquiry, by a relevant Assembly committee, into the insurance costs faced by small and medium-sized businesses operating in the ACT.

Night-Time Economy

11. to engage creative arts and music stakeholders, including venue managers, through regular forums, to which the relevant Minister will invite Mr Emerson as appropriate, to implement a night-time economy support package that revitalises Canberra's dining, bar, events and arts scene – including exploration of complementary, co-designed measures to ensure overall success.

Future Generations

12. to make provision for Mr Emerson's introduction of a Private Members Bill establishing a *Future Generations Act* and to support its referral to an inquiry by a relevant Assembly committee including Mr Emerson as a member. The Act would carry forward a community-led vision for a Canberra for generations to come and ensure government decisions ultimately align with that vision, including through the establishment of a Future Generations Commissioner.

Administrative

13. to pursue consensus from the Assembly in support of Mr Emerson's desired Committee roles.
14. to communicate with Mr Emerson prior to and during sitting periods to ensure the smooth running of the Legislative Assembly.
15. to support the retention, in the Standing Orders, of Private Members introducing legislation on any sitting day, and the continuation of a fair rotational allocation for Private Member motions across all parties proportionally by the number of non-Executive members.
16. to make a determination, before the end of 2024, to establish a new staff salary cap for 'crossbench members' to ensure independent MLAs are able to conduct their extensive duties in a timely manner that meets community expectations.
17. to review this agreement annually, including by meeting to assess mutual progress against these initiatives and to discuss how best to report progress on these initiatives to our community.

Signed

Mr Andrew Barr MLA
Leader of ACT Labor



Mr Thomas Emerson MLA
Independent Member for Kurrajong

6 November 2024