

Draft Joint Communiqué

Katy Gallagher, ACT Chief Minister

Meredith Hunter, ACT Greens Party, Parliamentary Leader

11th joint meeting between the ACT Labor Government and the ACT Greens Party.

Today the ACT Labor Government and the ACT Greens Party met to discuss and formally report on the implementation of their Parliamentary Agreement. The Agreement which formally expires in October 2012 forms the basis of the formal relationship struck between the Greens Party and the ACT Labor Party in 2008.

Both parties agreed that the Parliamentary Agreement has been a valuable mechanism to create a platform for policy discussion and reform over the term of the 7th Assembly. It has also been the basis on which the former Chief Minister, Jon Stanhope and the current Chief Minister, Katy Gallagher enjoyed majority support of the Assembly.

Importantly, the Agreement was sufficiently flexible to allow both parties to disagree on bills and motions before the Assembly, whilst ensuring the continued stability of government in the ACT as well as enabling the delivery of the shared vision detailed in the Agreement.

Significant reforms both to parliamentary process and governance as well as important policy outcomes have been achieved through this agreement. Close to ninety percent of the items in the agreement have now been completed or are ongoing.

Reforms in Parliamentary processes and governance ranged from changes to allow collaborative work on Committees, the introduction of Triple Bottom Line reporting, to inquiries and amendments to Freedom of Information and Whistleblower legislation and improved disclosure of political donations.

Policy reforms that were included in the agreement ranged from climate change and energy issues, transport and waste to planning, housing and health reforms. Action was completed on climate change targets, feed-in-tariffs, new park and ride facilities, urban wetland systems, higher energy efficiency standards for new housing together with an additional half a million dollars per annum for footpath upgrades and maintenance.

Ms Gallagher and Ms Hunter both expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the agreement and stated that they believed it highlighted for the ACT Community the enormous benefits that can be gained when two parties bring mature and pragmatic leadership to local politics.