



## Labor, Greens still in furious agreement

By Victor Violante  
Chief Assembly Reporter

The ACT Government and Greens say their relationship is going strong one year after the election that saw Labor lose majority government.

The two parties met yesterday to discuss progress on their Parliamentary Agreement, signed on October 31 last year, in which ACT Labor agreed to a number of policy commitments in exchange for the Greens' support to form government.

In a joint statement after the meeting, which was attended by the seven Labor MLAs and four Greens MLAs, Chief Minister Jon Stanhope and Greens Leader Meredith Hunter said they had ticked off 40 of the 99 actions in the agreement.

Also, a number of other items were well under way. Ms Hunter said the start of a high-frequency ACTION bus service trial, REDEX, which runs services every 15 minutes between Gungahlin and Kingston, went towards the item "adopting a goal of guaranteed bus frequency of 30 minutes".

The ACT Government ticked off yesterday another item, announcing community consultation on implementing 40km/h speed limits around shopping and community centres.

While other agreement commitments are considerably behind schedule, such as the 12-month trial of a levy on plastic bags in the first half of this year and the construction of a Government Shopfront in Gungahlin this year, Ms Hunter said she was pleased with progress.

The relationship will be tested in the coming months when the Greens will decide the fate of the Government's proposal to buy Calvary Hospital from the Little Company of Mary and in turn sell it Clare Holland House.

The Greens have said they support the purchase of the hospital but oppose the sale of the hospice. They refuse to say whether they feel strongly enough to scuttle the whole deal. The parties will meet again in February to discuss progress on the agreement.



**UNITED FACES:** Attorney-General Simon Corbell and Chief Minister Jon Stanhope, in the foreground, sit opposite Greens MLAs, from left, Amanda Bresnan, Shane Rattenbury Meredith Hunter and Caroline Le Couteur. Photo: ANDREW SHEARGOLD