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Government blocks Opposition ESA motion. 14/03/2007. ABC News Online

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Government blocks Opposition ESA motion

The ACT Government has blocked an Opposition motion calling for the Emergency Services Agency (ESA) to be reinstated as an independent statutory authority.

The Opposition's Steve Pratt moved the motion rejecting the latest restructure of the ESA and calling for it to be removed from the Justice Department and re-established as an independent statutory authority.

Mr Pratt told the Assembly the ESA cannot operate properly while it is part of the Department.

"This is why our volunteers are absolutely beside themselves at what has happened," Mr Pratt said.

But Emergency Services Minister Simon Corbell amended the motion to support the ESA's current arrangements instead.

"The Agency simply does not need to be a stand-alone authority to maintain its operational independence," Mr Corbell said.

Greens MLA Deb Foskey also supported the government.

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