Northern Territory of Australia
Legislative Assembly

Minutes of Proceedings

Meeting Number 64
Tuesday 13 October 2026

---

1. MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Assembly met at 10.00 am. The Speaker, the Honourable Robyn Lambley, took the Chair, read the prayer and delivered the acknowledgement of country on behalf of the Assembly.

2. VISITORS

On behalf of all members, the Speaker welcomed the Hon Sydney Stirling and the Hon Clare Martin, former Chief Minister of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly, present in the gallery.

3. VISITORS

On behalf of all members, the Speaker welcomed students and teachers from MacKillop Catholic College and Alana Kaye College present in the gallery.

4. SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

The Speaker advised of photographers being present in the Chamber to record the swearing-in of the Member for Mulka, and that approved Gupapuyŋu Clan dancers would lead the new member onto the Chamber floor.

5. PAPER TABLED

The Clerk tabled the writ for the election of the Member for Mulka elected on 12 September 2026, dated 20 August 2026 and returned by His Honour the Administrator by 21 October 2026 (Paper 819).

6. SWEARING-IN OF MEMBER

The Member for Mulka, Mr Stuart Yiwarr McGrath, was admitted to the Chamber, made and subscribed the affirmation of allegiance and of office, and was conducted by his sponsors the Leader of the Opposition and Deputy Leader of the Opposition to his place in the Chamber (Paper 820).

Suspension of Meeting: The meeting of the Assembly was suspended between 10.09 am and 10.16 am.

---

7. MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Speaker advised members of the following message from His Honour the Honourable David Connolly, Administrator of the Northern Territory (Paper 821).

Message Number 19

Assent to Proposed Law

I, DAVID CONNOLLY, the Administrator of the Northern Territory of Australia, advise the Legislative Assembly, pursuant to section 7 of the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978* of the Commonwealth, of the assent to the following proposed law:

3 September 2026
Rights of the Terminally Ill Act 2026 (Act No. 23 of 2026)

Dated 7 September 2026.

8. STATEMENT ON THE SEVERE WEATHER EVENT IN ALICE SPRINGS

Mrs Finocchiaro (Chief Minister), by leave, made a short statement on the severe weather event in Alice Springs.

9. MOTION: ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr Edgington (Leader of Government Business) moved that:

> Government Business be interrupted at 6.00 pm today for the Member for Mulka to deliver his first speech

Question put and passed.

10. MOTIONS: LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Pursuant to Standing Order 224, Mr Edgington moved that a leave of absence for today be granted to Mr Burgoyne as he has returned to Alice Springs due to the severe weather event.

Question put and passed.

11. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Mr Howe (Chair of the Public Accounts Committee) tabled the Report, Inquiry into the Acacia Digital Patient Record System, Public Accounts Committee, August 2026 (Paper 808) and Associated Minutes of Proceedings (Paper 809) and made a statement.

12. REPORT FROM THE LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Mrs Carlson (Chair of the Legislative Scrutiny Committee) tabled the Report, Inquiry into the National Electricity (Northern Territory) (National Uniform Legislation) Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 (Serial 75), Legislative Scrutiny Committee, October 2026 (Paper 811) and Associated Minutes of Proceedings (Paper 812) and made a statement.

13. REPORT FROM THE LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Mrs Carlson (Chair of the Legislative Scrutiny Committee) tabled the Report, Inquiry into the Traffic Legislation Amendment (Drink and Drug Driving and Hooning) Bill 2026 (Serial 76), Legislative Scrutiny Committee, October 2026 (Paper 813) and Associated Minutes of Proceedings (Paper 814) and made a statement.

DRAFT

14. REPORT FROM THE LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Mrs Carlson (Chair of the Legislative Scrutiny Committee) tabled the Report, Inquiry into the Environment Legislation Amendment (Safe Air) Bill 2026 (Serial 73), Legislative Scrutiny Committee, October 2026 (Paper 815) and Associated Minutes of Proceedings (Paper 816) and made a statement.

15. REPORT FROM THE LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Mrs Carlson (Chair of the Legislative Scrutiny Committee) tabled the Report, Inquiry into the Lands and Planning Legislation Amendment (Red Tape Reduction) Bill 2026 (Serial 77), Legislative Scrutiny Committee, October 2026 (Paper 817) and Associated Minutes of Proceedings (Paper 818) and made a statement.

16. TRAFFIC LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (DRINK AND DRUG DRIVING AND HOONING) BILL 2026 (SERIAL 76)

Order of the day read for moving the second reading of the Traffic Legislation Amendment (Drink and Drug Driving and Hooning) Bill 2026 (Serial 76).

Mr Yan (Minister for Logistics and Infrastructure) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr Smelt, Mrs Zio.

Visitors: On behalf of all members, the Speaker welcomed students and teachers from MacKillop Catholic College present in the gallery.

Dr Rahman.

Paper Tabled: Dr Rahman, by leave, tabled: Images, Evidence of hooning (Paper 822).

Mr O'Gallagher, Mr Howe, J Davis.

Debate interrupted.

Suspension of Meeting: The meeting of the Assembly was suspended between 12 noon and 2.00 pm.

---

17. STATEMENT ON CORPORAL BRENDAN HANNAM

Mrs Finocchiaro (Chief Minister), by leave, made a short statement regarding the passing of Corporal Brendan Hannam.

Ms Uibo.

18. NOTICES

The following notices were given:

1. Mr Paech will move on the next General Business day that:

   The Assembly calls on the CLP Government to:

   - Establish clear Territory-wide health service standards, improve regional and remote access, strengthen preventative care, and support culturally safe community-controlled health services.

DRAFT

2. Ms Uibo will move on the next General Business day that:

   The Assembly calls on the CLP Government to:
   - Develop a Territory-wide Health Workforce Strategy addressing recruitment, retention, workforce shortages, staff safety, excessive workloads and reliance on short-term agency staff.

3. Mrs Finocchiaro (Minister for Police) will present on the next meeting day a Bill titled Weapons Control Legislation Amendment (Legalising Controlled OC Spray) Bill 2026 (Serial 80).

4. J Davis will present on the next General Business day a Bill titled Racing and Wagering Amendment (Harm Prevention) Bill 2026 (Serial 79).

5. Mr Smelt will move on the next General Business day that:

   The Assembly calls on the CLP Government to:
   - Develop a costed, ten-year Territory Health Infrastructure Masterplan covering hospitals, aged care, remote clinics, specialist services, workforce housing and ambulance infrastructure.

19. PETITIONS

Petition Number 29: Ms Uibo, by leave, presented Petition Number 29 from 5,530 petitioners, not conforming with Standing Orders, praying to stop the closure of the Aboriginal Community-controlled YiSSA Housing (Paper 825).

Petition read.

Ms Uibo moved that Petition Number 29 be referred to the Public Accounts Committee.

Question put and passed.

Petition Number 30: Mr Paech presented Petition Number 30 from 1,051 petitioners, not conforming with Standing Orders, praying to protect Northern Territory Schools (Paper 826).

Petition read.

Mr Paech moved that Petition Number 30 be referred to the Public Accounts Committee.

Question put and passed.

Petition Numbers 26, 27 and 28: J Davis presented Petition Number 26 from 850 petitioners; Petition Number 27 from 1,108 petitioners; and Petition Number 28 from 13,654 petitioners, not confirming with Standing Orders, calling for a Moratorium on all AI Data Centres in the Northern Territory (Paper 827) (Paper 828) (Paper 829).

Petitions read.

J Davis moved that Petition Numbers 26, 27 and 28 be referred to the Public Accounts Committee.

Question put and passed.

20. VISITORS

On behalf of all members, the Speaker welcomed Mr John and Mrs Debra Vandervalk, aunt and uncle of the Member for Drysdale, present in the gallery.

21. MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Mr Edgington (Leader of Government Business) informed the Assembly of the absence of Mr Burgoyne and asked that all questions relating to the Minister's portfolios be directed to Mr Yan.

DRAFT

22. QUESTIONS

2.11 Ms Uibo to Ms Cahill
2.14 Mrs Carlson to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.18 Mr Smelt to Ms Cahill
2.22 Mr Kerle to Mr Yan
2.26 Mr Young to Mr Edgington
2.29 Mr Young to Mr Edgington – Supplementary
2.31 Dr Rahman to Mr Maley
2.34 J Davis to Ms Cahill
2.37 Mr Mackay to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.41 Mr Paech to Mr Edgington
2.45 Mr O'Gallagher to Ms Cahill
2.49 Mr Brown to Mrs Hersey
2.51 Mrs Zio to Ms Boothby
2.56 Mr Smelt to Ms Cahill

Proposed censure

Pursuant to Standing Order 67, Ms Uibo moved:

> That the Assembly censures the Children and Families for gross incompetence due to her botched handling of the YiSSA facility, the closure and the families who are affected in the Territory, including:
>
> - moving medically vulnerable people away from critical healthcare;
> - failing to provide adequate and safe accommodation for hundreds of YiSSA residents;
> - failing to adequately account for the education needs of children forced out of YiSSA with their families;
> - failing to consult with the people of the Batchelor township before relocating up to 150 people;
> - removing a safe and affordable accommodation option in Darwin for up 400 people in any given time;
> - leaving people to sleep rough or crowd into public housing;
> - misleading Territorians about the two Commonwealth funding offers that were made to keep YiSSA open; and
> - spending $18.2m of taxpayer funding on her botched.
>
> The Government did not accept the motion.

2.59 Mr Patel to Mr Charls
3.03 Mr Howe to Mr Yan
3.04 Mr Young to Ms Cahill
3.06 Mr Howe to Mr Edgington

Mr Edgington (Leader of Government Business) asked that further questions be placed on the Written Question Paper.

23. TRAFFIC LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (DRINK AND DRUG DRIVING AND HOONING) BILL 2026 (SERIAL 76)

Order of the day read for the resumption of debate on the question that the Bill be now read a second time.

J Davis (continuation of remarks), Mr Yan (in reply).

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

The Assembly considered the Bill in detail.

Clauses 1 to 16 stand as printed.

Clause 17.

Mr Yan moved the following amendment:

Clause 17(5), proposed subsection (5)(b)(ii), page 12, line 16

omit

within 3 years

insert

at any time

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 17 stands as amended.

Clauses 18 to 25 stand as printed.

Clause 26.

Mr Yan moved the following amendment:

Clause 26(2), proposed subsection (1)(a) and (b), page 17

omit, insert

(a) the officer believes on reasonable grounds that the vehicle was used in committing a hooning offence or a high range drink driving offence (the ***alleged offence***); and

(b) for an alleged offence that is a high range drink driving offence – the driver of the vehicle at the time of the alleged offence has previously been found guilty of one or more high range drink driving offences.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr Yan moved the following amendment:

Clause 26(4), proposed paragraph (a), page 17

omit, insert

(a) must include the information prescribed by regulation; and

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 26 stands as amended.

Clauses 27 to 29 stand as printed.

Clause 30.

Mr Smelt moved the following amendment:

After clause 30(2)

insert

(3) After section 29AR(4)

insert

(4A) A person mentioned in section 29AD(4)(a) to (d) may apply to the Commissioner of Police to extend the period mentioned in subsection (1)(a).

(4B) The Commissioner of Police may, on application or on the Commissioner's own initiative, extend the period mentioned in subsection (1)(a) if satisfied there are reasonable grounds to do so.

(4C) An application mentioned in subsection (4A) and a decision of the Commissioner of Police under subsection (4B) may be made at any time before the Commissioner disposes of the vehicle under subsection (2).

Amendments not agreed to.

Clause 30 stands as printed.

Clause 31 stands as printed.

Clause 32.

Mr Yan moved the following amendment:

Clause 32, page 20

omit, insert

32 Section 29AX replaced

Section 29AX

repeal, insert

29AX Review of Part

The Chief Executive Officer must conduct a review of the operation of this Part within 3 years after the commencement of this section.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 32 stands as amended.

Clauses 33 and 34 stand as printed.

Clause 35.

Mr Yan moved the following amendment:

Clause 35, after proposed regulation 91A, page 21

insert

91B Information to be included in impounding determination

For section 29AD(5)(a) of the Act, an impounding determination must include the following information:

(a) details of the alleged offence in relation to which the determination is made;

(b) the grounds on which the police officer making the determination formed the belief that the vehicle was used in committing the alleged offence;

(c) if the alleged offence is a high range drink driving offence – details of the previous offences committed by the driver of the vehicle relied on for section 29AD(1)(b) of the Act;

(d) the period for which the vehicle is to be impounded under section 29ADA of the Act;

(e) if the alleged offence is a hooning offence and the vehicle is to be impounded under section 29ADA(2)(b)(ii) or (iii) or (c)(ii) or (iii) of the Act – details of the previous offences committed by the driver of the vehicle relied on for the applicable provision;

DRAFT

(f) the place where the vehicle is to be impounded;

(g) information as to the costs payable for the impounding of the vehicle as a result of the determination;

(h) the timeframe allowed for collection of the vehicle after the end of the initial period;

(i) an explanation in plain language of the consequences of a failure to collect the impounded vehicle within the timeframe mentioned in paragraph (h).

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 35 stands as amended.

Clauses 36 to 42 stand as printed.

Schedule.

Mr Yan moved the following amendment:

Schedule, entry for section 29AAC(1), page 24

omit

saliva test

insert

breath analysis

Amendment agreed to.

Schedule stands as amended.

Remainder of the Bill stands as printed.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Mr Yan moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time.

24. EDUCATION STANDARDS AND REGISTRATION BOARD BILL 2026 (SERIAL 69)

Order of the day read for moving the second reading of the Education Standards and Registration Board Bill 2026 (Serial 69).

Mrs Hersey (Minister for Education and Training) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

Mrs Hersey, Mr Paech, Mr Patel, J Davis, Mrs Hersey.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

The Assembly considered the Bill in detail.

Clauses 1 to 5 stand as printed.

DRAFT

Clause 6.

Mr Paech moved the following amendment:

Clause 6(2)

omit, insert

(2) The members appointed under subsection (1) must be:

(a) a person nominated by the Association of Independent Schools of the Northern Territory Incorporated (Association registration number 01661C) who, in the opinion of the Association, is an expert; and

(b) a person nominated by the Northern Territory Catholic Education Office ABN 22 616 685 167 who, in the opinion of the Office, is an expert; and

(c) a person who is a parent of a student enrolled in a school in the Territory who has demonstrated, to the satisfaction of the Minister, that the person has been nominated or endorsed by a body that represents the interests of such parents; and

(d) a person who is working as a teacher in the Territory who has demonstrated, to the satisfaction of the Minister, that the person has been nominated or endorsed by a body that represents the interests of such teachers; and

(e) a person who represents the interests of employers of teachers; and

(f) a person who represents the interests of:

(i) the Aboriginal people of Australia; and

(ii) the indigenous inhabitants of the Torres Strait Islands; and

(g) one or more persons chosen by the Minister who, in the opinion of the Minister, have professional skills and expertise in one or more of the following areas:

(i) education systems and school and student performance;

(ii) teaching and learning practice;

(iii) workforce development;

(iv) law or regulatory practice;

(v) corporate governance;

(vi) any other skills or experience that the Minister considers appropriate.

Question, that the amendment be agreed to, put and the Assembly divided:

Ayes 7

Mr Brown	J Davis	Mr McGrath	Mr Paech
Mr Smelt	Ms Uibo	Mr Young	

Noes 15

Ms Boothby	Ms Cahill	Mrs Carlson	Mr Charls
Mr Edgington	Mrs Hersey	Mr Howe	Mr Kerle
Mr Mackay	Mr Maley	Mr O'Gallagher	Mr Patel
Dr Rahman	Mr Yan	Mrs Zio	

Amendment not agreed to.

Mrs Hersey moved the following amendment:

Clause 6(3), line 15

omit

may

insert

must

Amendment agreed to.

Mr Paech moved the following amendment:

After clause 6(4)

insert

(5) The Minister must establish a policy for the appointment of persons as members, including:

(a) a merit selection process for appointments; and

(b) eligibility criteria for appointments.

(6) The Minister must publish the policy on the Agency's website.

(7) In this section:

merit selection process means a process for the selection of persons having regard to the person's knowledge, skills, qualifications and experience.

Question, that the amendment be agreed to, put and the Assembly divided:

Ayes 7

Mr Brown	J Davis	Mr McGrath	Mr Paech
Mr Smelt	Ms Uibo	Mr Young	

Noes 15

Ms Boothby	Ms Cahill	Mrs Carlson	Mr Charls
Mr Edgington	Mrs Hersey	Mr Howe	Mr Kerle
Mr Mackay	Mr Maley	Mr O'Gallagher	Mr Patel
Dr Rahman	Mr Yan	Mrs Zio	

Amendment not agreed to.

Clause 6 stands as amended.

Clauses 7 to 14 stand as printed.

Mr Paech moved the following amendment:

After clause 14, page 8

insert

14A Requirement to consult before advising on certain matters

Before providing advice to the Minister or the Chief Executive Officer under section 14(a) or (c), the Board must consult with the following persons if the advice relates to significant changes to curriculum, student assessment or certification for the school education system in the Territory or matters relating to teacher quality, minimum qualifications or other requirements for registration:

(a) the Association of Independent Schools of the Northern Territory Incorporated (Association registration number 01661C);

(b) the Australian Education Union Northern Territory Branch ABN 64 406 978 451;

(c) t the Independent Education Union of Australia – Queensland and Northern Territory Branch ABN 74 662 601 045;

(d) the Northern Territory Catholic Education Office ABN 22 616 685 167;

(e) the Northern Territory Council of Government School Organisations Incorporated (Association registration number 00668C);

(f) the Northern Territory Principals' Association Incorporated (Association registration number 01357C);

(g) the Professional Teachers' Association of the Northern Territory Incorporated (Association registration number 01940C).

Amendment not agreed to.

Clause 15 stands as printed.

Clause 16.

Mr Paech moved the following amendment:

After clause 16(4), page 9

insert

(5) As soon as practicable after receiving a direction from the Minister under subsection (1), the Board must publish a copy of the direction on the Board's website.

Amendment not agreed to.

Clause 16 stands as printed.

Clauses 17 to 27 stand as printed.

Clause 28.

Mrs Hersey moved the following amendment:

Clause 28, after 'education law'

insert

, other than the Board's powers under section 53 or 64 of the *Teacher Registration (Northern Territory) Act 2004*,

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 28 stands as amended.

DRAFT

Clause 29.

Mr Paech moved the following amendment:

Clause 29(1), line 9

omit

may, with the approval of the Minister,

insert

may

Amendment not agreed to.

Mr Paech moved the following amendment:

Clause 29(3), line 14

omit

must, with the approval of the Minister,

insert

must

Amendment not agreed to.

Clause 29 stands as printed.

Clauses 30 to 57 stand as printed.

Clause 58.

Mr Paech moved the following amendment:

Clause 58, proposed section 55, before "If", line 5

insert

(1)

Amendment not agreed to.

Mr Paech moved the following amendment:

Clause 58, proposed section 55, at the end

insert

(2) If the investigator is:

(a) a person mentioned in subsection (1)(a) – the person must be a registered teacher; and

(b) a panel mentioned in subsection (1)(b) – at least 1 member of the panel must be a registered teacher.

Amendment not agreed to.

Clause 58 stands as printed.

DRAFT

Clause 59.

Mr Paech moved the following amendment:

After clause 59(2), page 24

insert

(2A) After section 60(2)

insert

(2A) At least 1 member of the inquiry committee must be a registered teacher.

Amendment not agreed to.

Clause 59 stands as printed.

Clauses 60 to 68 stand as printed.

Remainder of the Bill stands as printed.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Mrs Hersey moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

Question put and the Assembly divided:

Ayes 16

Ms Boothby	Ms Cahill	Mrs Carlson	Mr Charls
Mr Edgington	Mrs Finocchiaro	Mrs Hersey	Mr Howe
Mr Kerle	Mr Mackay	Mr Maley	Mr O'Gallagher
Mr Patel	Dr Rahman	Mr Yan	Mrs Zio

Noes 7

Mr Brown	J Davis	Mr McGrath	Mr Paech
Mr Smelt	Ms Uibo	Mr Young	

Motion passed.

Bill read a third time.

25. VISITORS

On behalf of all members, the Speaker welcomed Mr McGrath's family and friends, and the Hon Jane Aagaard, former Speaker of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly, present in the gallery.

26. FIRST SPEECH – MEMBER FOR MULKA

Mr McGrath, as per a prior resolution of the Assembly, made his first speech in the Assembly.

27. PAPER TABLED

The Speaker advised that the Government Response to the Legislative Scrutiny Committee Report, Inquiry into the Sentencing Amendment (Murder) Bill 2026 (Paper 810) was deemed tabled on 7 September 2026.

28. RESPONSE TO PETITION

The Clerk, pursuant to Standing Order 123, tabled a response to Petition Number 25, concerning the deterioration of Northern Territory public housing and restoration of safe, liveable homes (Paper 830).

DRAFT

29. MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE: YISSA SHORT-STAY ACCOMMODATION

The Speaker advised the Assembly that Ms Uibo had proposed a Matter of Public Importance in the following terms:

The NT Government's decision to close YiSSA Short-Stay Accommodation.

Having received the necessary support, discussion ensued.

Ms Uibo, Ms Cahill.

Paper tabled: Ms Cahill tabled: Email Correspondence between the Member for Port Darwin and Senator the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy, Funding for the YiSSA Facility (Paper 831).

Mr Smelt, Mr O'Gallagher, Mr Paech, Mr Kerle, J Davis, Mrs Zio, Mr Brown, Mr Maley.

Discussion concluded.

30. ADJOURNMENT

Mr Edgington (Leader of Government Business) moved that the Assembly do now adjourn.

Mr Charls, Mrs Finocchiaro, Mr Maley, J Davis, Dr Rahman, Mr Patel, Ms Uibo, Mrs Carlson, Mr Howe, Mr Paech, Mr Mackay, Ms Boothby.

Question put and passed.

The Assembly adjourned at 9.47 pm until Wednesday, 14 October 2026 at 10.00 am.

DEEMED PAPERS

Pursuant to Standing Order 239 the following papers were deemed tabled:

Integrity and Ethics Commissioner Act 2025

Instrument of Appointment of the Integrity and Ethics Commissioner, Mr Peter Howel Shoyer, dated 27 May 2026, section 10(1) of the *Integrity and Ethics Commissioner Act 2025* (Paper 823)

Instrument of Appointment of the Integrity and Ethics Inspector, Mr Bruce Roland McClintock, dated 27 May 2026, section 27(1) of the *Integrity and Ethics Commissioner Act 2025* (Paper 824)

ATTENDANCE

All members attended the meeting, except Mr Burgoyne on leave.

RUSSELL KEITH
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

DRAFT