Northern Territory of Australia
Legislative Assembly

Minutes of Proceedings

Meeting Number 31
Wednesday 3 September 2025

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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 students and teachers from St Mary's Catholic Primary School present in the gallery.

3. **ELECTRICITY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (MARKET REFORM) BILL 2025 (SERIAL 36)**
Mr Maley (Minister for Mining and Energy), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Electricity Reform Act 2000* and the *National Electricity (Northern Territory) (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2015,* and tabled an Explanatory Statement (Paper 372).

   Mr Maley moved that the Bill be now read a first time and delivered an explanatory speech.

   Question put and passed.

   Bill read a first time.

4. **ELECTRICITY SYSTEM AND MARKET OPERATOR BILL 2025 (SERIAL 35)**
Mr Maley (Minister for Mining and Energy), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to establish the Northern Territory Electricity System and Market Operator and for related purposes, and tabled an Explanatory Statement (Paper 373).

   Mr Maley moved that the Bill be now read a first time and delivered an explanatory speech.

   Question put and passed.

   Bill read a first time.

5. **FIRST HOME OWNER GRANT AMENDMENT (EXTENSION OF SCHEME) BILL 2025 (SERIAL 38)**
Mr Yan (Minister for Housing Construction), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *First Home Owner Grant Act 2000*, and tabled an Explanatory Statement (Paper 374).

   Mr Yan moved that the Bill be now read a first time and delivered an explanatory speech.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a first time.

6. ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION (BEVERAGE CONTAINERS AND PLASTIC BAGS) LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (EXPANSION OF CDS AND OTHER MATTERS) BILL 2025 (SERIAL 37)

Mr Burgoyne (Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Environment Protection (Beverage Containers and Plastic Bags) Act 2011* and the Environment Protection (Beverage Containers and Plastic Bags) Regulations 2011, and tabled an Explanatory Statement (Paper 375).

Mr Burgoyne moved that the Bill be now read a first time and delivered an explanatory speech.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Burgoyne moved that the Bill be referred to the Legislative Scrutiny Committee for report by 8 October 2025.

Question put and passed.

7. LANDS, PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025 (SERIAL 34)

Order of the day read for moving the second reading of the Lands, Planning and Environment Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 (Serial 34).

Mr Burgoyne (Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr Brown, Mr Burgoyne (in reply).

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

Mr Burgoyne, by leave, moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time.

8. MINISTERIAL REPORT: SILKWOOD

Mr Burgoyne (Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment) delivered a report regarding Silkwood and moved the report be noted.

Mr Young.

Visitors: On behalf of all members, the Speaker welcomed students and teachers from St Mary's Catholic Primary School present in the gallery.

J Davis, Mr Mackay, Mr Howe, Mr Paech, Ms Boothby.

Paper Tabled: Ms Boothby tabled: Article, NT News, Silkwood, Adelaide River: LAWD Katherine knocks $4m off asking price for Dr John Cooper's land, dated 29 December 2024 (Paper 376).

Mrs Carlson.

Debate interrupted.

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

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9. SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

The Speaker advised the Assembly on the use of parliamentary privilege.

10. PERSONAL EXPLANATION: K MCNAMARA

K McNamara gave a personal explanation.

11. NOTICES

The following notice was given:

1. Mrs Finocchiaro (Minister for Police) will present on the next meeting day a Bill titled Police Administration Amendment (Police Public Safety Officers) Bill 2025 (Serial 39).

12. QUESTIONS

2.02 Mr Paech to Ms Boothby

Visitors: On behalf of all members, the Speaker welcomed Defence personnel from Joint Operations Command, accompanied by their Captain, present in the gallery.

2.07 Mr Mackay to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.11 Ms Uibo to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.13 Mr Patel to Mr Maley
2.17 Mrs Zio to Ms Boothby
2.20 Mr Paech to Ms Cahill

Exclusion from Chamber: The Speaker ordered Mr Paech to leave the Chamber for one hour pursuant to Standing Order 49.

2.25 Mr Young to Mrs Hersey
2.30 Mr Kerle to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.34 Mr Brown to Mr Charls, redirected to Ms Boothby
2.38 Mr Howe to Mr Yan
2.42 Mr Guyula to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.43 Mrs Carlson to Mr Maley
2.47 J Davis to Ms Cahill
2.48 Dr Rahman to Ms Cahill
2.52 K McNamara to Ms Boothby
2.56 Mrs Zio to Ms Cahill
2.59 Ms Uibo to Mr Yan
3.04 Mr O'Gallagher to Mr Edgington

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

13. MOTION: IMPROVING RENTAL SECURITY IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

K McNamara, pursuant to notice, moved:

That the NT Legislative Assembly:

- Recognises the rising costs of living pressures upon Territorians, particularly renters who often face housing insecurity.
- Acknowledges that renters in the NT face frequent and unreasonable rent increases.
- Urges the CLP Government to improve protections for renters under the Residential Tenancies Act by:
  - Introduce a two-year rent freeze
  - Limit rental increases to 2% every 2 years after end of rent freeze
  - Establishing an independent bond board, minimum standards for rental premises, including energy efficiency and heating/cooling requirements
  - Abolish no grounds evictions
  - Protect tenants against discrimination
  - Modernise the Act to reflect the realities of renting, including specific protections for renters living in sharehouses
  - Strengthen accountability for landlord's obligations

J Davis.

Ms Boothby moved the following amendment:

Omit all words after 'housing insecurity.' and insert the following words:

- Acknowledges that work and action that has been undertaken by the Northern Territory Government to rebuild the economy to help ease the cost of living for Territorians.

Mr Howe, Ms Uibo, Mr Paech.

K McNamara moved the following amendment to the amendment:

Omit all words after 'and insert the following words' and insert the following words:

That the Assembly refer the matter of the potential establishment of a bond board to the Public Accounts Committee.

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

Ayes 7

Mr Brown	J Davis	Mr Guyula	K McNamara
Mr Paech	Ms Uibo	Mr Young	

Noes 17

Ms Boothby	Mr Burgoyne	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			

Amendment to the amendment not agreed to.

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

Ayes 17

Ms Boothby	Mr Burgoyne	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 Guyula	K McNamara
Mr Paech	Ms Uibo	Mr Young	

Amendment agreed to.

Question, that the motion as amended be agreed to, put and the Assembly divided:

Ayes 17

Ms Boothby	Mr Burgoyne	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 Guyula	K McNamara
Mr Paech	Ms Uibo	Mr Young	

Motion, as amended, passed.

14. MOTION: CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION FOR THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

K McNamara, pursuant to notice, moved:

That this Assembly:

1. Acknowledge the overwhelming scientific evidence on anthropogenic global heating which is changing the climate and global weather patterns.
2. Recognises that in this climate crisis, the Northern Territory will increasingly be impacted by more extreme weather patterns, including increased severity and length of heatwaves, prolonged droughts, sea level rise, more intense cyclones and flooding, as well as a broader distribution of tropical diseases and species habitat reduction.
3. Recognise that the Northern Territory Government has an obligation to its citizens to work to mitigate the impacts of the changing the climate, actively create resilient communities and develop an overarching climate change adaptation strategy for the NT that focuses on:
    a) Consulting widely across sectors, our urban and rural communities, government, peak organisation and business.
    b) Identifying key climate risks to our communities, our economy, our infrastructure and our environment.
    c) Analysing risks and impacts, costing adaptation and mitigation measures.
    d) Identifying the best ways to use funding, prioritise actions, and advocate for federal money.
    e) Ensuring those most vulnerable to heatwaves are supported to adapt to a hotter climate, including housing upgrades to improve energy efficiency and ensuring access to reliable and free air-conditioned public spaces.

f) Ensure consideration of climate risks is embedded in planning for all large projects that include significant public investment.
g) Create a Climate Risk Adaptation framework for all future government budgets.

Paper Tabled: K McNamara, by leave, tabled: Book, Highway to Hell, Climate Change and Australia's Future, Joelle Gergis, Quarterly Essay Issue 94, published 3 June 2024 (Paper 377).

Mr Burgoyne moved the following amendment:

Omit all words after 'That this Assembly:' and insert the following words:
1. Acknowledge the scientific evidence on climate change.
2. Recognise that with a changing climate the Northern Territory will increasingly be impacted by more extreme weather patterns.
3. Recognise the work that the Northern Territory Government is doing to mitigate these risks to reduce the impacts on;
   a) Our economic sustainability
   b) The security of essential resources like food, water and energy
   c) The health and well-being of our communities
   d) Our natural ecosystems
   e) Our built environment and infrastructure
   f) Our preparedness for natural disasters.

Mr Guyula, Mr Brown, J Davis, Ms Uibo, Dr Rahman, K McNamara (in reply).

Question, that the amendment be agreed to, put and passed.

Question, that the motion as amended be agreed to, put and passed.

15. PAPER TABLED

The Speaker tabled: Quarterly Members' Fuel Transaction Reports, Quarter 2, April to June 2025 (Paper 378).

16. ADJOURNMENT

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

Mrs Finocchiaro, Mr Maley, Mr Mackay.

Papers Tabled: Mr Mackay, by leave, tabled:
1. Order of Service, Mr Christopher Nathanael, A Service to Remember and Give Thanks for the Life of Chris, dated 19 June 2025 (Paper 379).
2. Eulogy, Mr Christopher Nathanael, dated 19 June 2025 (Paper 380).

Mrs Carlson, Ms Boothby, Ms Uibo, Mr O'Gallagher, Mr Paech, Mrs Zio, J Davis.

Papers Tabled: J Davis, by leave, tabled:
1. Letter addressed to the Chief Minister and Acting Commissioner, concerning Investigation of death in custody – Kumanjayi White, dated 29 August 2025, from Legal Practitioners of the Northern Territory (Paper 381).
2. Letter addressed to the Finocchiaro Government, concerning no pepper spray, no guns on buses: tough on crime won't produce safer communities, dated 3 September 2025, from the Civil Society (Paper 382).

K McNamara.

Paper Tabled: K McNamara, by leave, tabled: Images, Akio Hoshi (Paper 383).

Ms Cahill, Mrs Hersey, Mr Howe.

Question put and passed.

The Assembly adjourned at 8.46 pm until Thursday 4 September 2025 at 10.00 am.

ATTENDANCE
All members attended the meeting.

RUSSELL KEITH
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly