Northern Territory of Australia
Legislative Assembly

Minutes of Proceedings

Meeting Number 44
Thursday 5 February 2026

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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. LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (CODE OF CONDUCT AND OTHER MATTERS) BILL 2026 (SERIAL 54)

Mr Edgington (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Development), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Local Government Act 2019*, the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2021 and the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, and tabled an Explanatory Statement (Paper 590).

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

Question put and passed.

Bill read a first time.

3. COMMERCIAL PASSENGER (ROAD) TRANSPORT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (LICENSING) BILL 2026 (SERIAL 53)

Mr Yan (Minister for Logistics and Infrastructure), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport Act 1991* and the Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport (Miscellaneous) Regulations 1992, and tabled an Explanatory Statement (Paper 591).

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.

Mr Yan moved that the Bill be referred to the Legislative Scrutiny Committee for report by 5 March 2026.

Question put and passed.

4. BAIL AMENDMENT BILL 2026 (SERIAL 52)

Ms Boothby (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Bail Act 1982*, and tabled an Explanatory Statement (Paper 592).

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

Question put and passed.

Bill read a first time.

Ms Boothby moved that the Bill be referred to the Legislative Scrutiny Committee for report by 5 March 2026.

Question put and passed.

5. TRADE, BUSINESS AND ASIAN RELATIONS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (STREAMLINING LICENSING SCHEMES AND OTHER MATTERS) BILL 2025 (SERIAL 47)

Order of the day read for moving the second reading of the Trade, Business and Asian Relations Legislation Amendment (Streamlining Licensing Schemes and Other Matters) Bill 2025 (Serial 47).

Ms Cahill (Minister for Trade, Business and Asian Relations) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

Ms Uibo, Ms Cahill (in reply).

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

Ms Cahill, by leave, moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time.

6. STATUTE LAW REVISION AND REPEALS BILL 2025 (SERIAL 40)

Order of the day read for moving the second reading of the Statute Law Revision and Repeals Bill 2025 (Serial 40).

Ms Boothby (Attorney-General) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr Paech, Ms Boothby (in reply).

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

Ms Boothby, by leave, moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time.

7. HOUSING AMENDMENT BILL 2026 (SERIAL 55)

Order of the day read for moving the second reading of the Housing Amendment Bill 2026 (Serial 55).

Mr Edgington (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Development) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr Paech.

Paper tabled: Mr Paech, by leave, tabled: Media Release, Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory, Aboriginal Housing NT (AHNT) Strongly Opposes Hasty Remote Rent Reform (Undated) (Paper 593).

Mr Maley, Mr Guyula, Mr Yan.

Speaker's Statement: the Speaker made a statement regarding imputations and unparliamentary language.

J Davis, Mr Kerle, Mr Edgington (in reply).

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

The Assembly considered the Bill in detail.

Clauses 1 to 5 stand as printed.

Remainder of the Bill stands as printed.

Bill agreed to.

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

Question 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 passed.

Bill read a third time.

Suspension of Meeting: The meeting of the Assembly was suspended between 12.01 pm and 2.00 pm.

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8. NOTICES

The following notices were given:

1. Mrs Lambley will move on the next General Business day:

   That the NT Government:

   Acknowledges that when considering building the next new hospital in the NT, at the very top of the list is a new Alice Springs Hospital; and, that no other NT town or region needs and deserves a modern, new hospital more that Alice Springs and central Australia.

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

   That this Assembly:

   1. Acknowledges that the Aboriginal Justice Agreement is a cornerstone framework for improving justice outcomes for Aboriginal Territorians through partnership, shared responsibility and community-led solutions.
   2. Acknowledges that the long-term justice reform required:
      Genuine partnership with Aboriginal people, stable and predictable funding, and a commitment to prevention, diversion and community-based responses; and
   3. Calls on the Government to publicly recommit to the Aboriginal Justice Agreement beyond 2027 and a guarantee full funding for the agreement for 4 years.

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

   That this Assembly:

   1. Note that the Northern Territory's commitment to implement recommendations from the Royal Commission in institutional responses to child sexual abuse.
   2. Recognise the need to legislate and operationalise child safety standards with an effective oversight mechanism to operationalise enforcement.
   3. Affirm the need for undertake further work to build awareness and capacity within the community and organisations to comply with standards to ensure organisations engage children to create a child safe culture, adopt strategies and take action to promote child wellbeing and prevent harm.

4. J Davis will move on the next General Business day:

   That this Assembly:

   Recognises housing as a fundamental human right and calls on the Government to fully enact the 'Better Deal for Renters' policy while urgently increasing investment in social and affordable housing and adopting a 'Housing First' approach to ensure secure housing for all Territorians.

5. J Davis will move on the next General Business day:

   That this Assembly:

   1. Recognises the warnings from recent research including the Federal Government's National Climate Risk Assessment (NCRA) that parts of the Northern Territory could become "unliveable" within decades due to "lethal heat".
   2. Calls on the Government to:
      a. Commit to emissions reduction targets consistent with keeping global warming to 1.5°C, noting that opening huge new fossil fuel reserves such as the Beetaloo Basin is incompatible with a safe, liveable future for the Northern Territory.

9. QUESTIONS

2.03 Ms Uibo to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.08 Mr Howe to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.12 Mr Guyula to Mrs Finocchiaro – Ruled out of order
2.14 Mr Kerle to Mr Maley
2.17 K McNamara to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.19 Dr Rahman to Mr Charls
2.22 Mr Mackay to Ms Boothby
2.25 J Davis to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.27 Mr Patel to Mr Burgoyne

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

2.32 Mr O'Gallagher to Ms Cahill
2.37 Mrs Carlson to Mr Charls

Visitors: On behalf of all members, the Speaker welcomed ADF members on deployment in Darwin as part of Operation Resolute present in the gallery.

2.41 Mrs Zio to Mr Edgington
2.45 Mr Patel to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.48 Mr Howe to Mr Burgoyne
2.52 Mr Kerle to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.56 Mr O'Gallagher to Mr Yan
3.00 Mrs Carlson to Mr Maley

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

Speaker's Statement: The Speaker made a statement regarding the Member for Nightcliff's comments during Question Time.

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10. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: 2026—THE YEAR AHEAD

Order of the day read for the Ministerial Statement regarding 2026—The Year Ahead.

Mr Maley (continuation of remarks), Mr Yan, Mr Charls, Ms Cahill, Ms Boothby, Dr Rahman.

Speaker's Statement: The Speaker made a statement regarding the conduct of members during Question Time.

Member Named: Pursuant to Standing Order 50, the Speaker named Mr Young.

Suspension after Naming: Pursuant to Standing Order 51, the Speaker put the question that Mr Young be suspended from the service of the Assembly.

Question put and passed.

Period of Suspension: Pursuant to Standing Order 52, Mr Young was suspended from the service of the Assembly for a period of 24 hours.

Exclusions from Chamber: The Speaker ordered Ms Uibo, Mr Paech, Mr Brown, Mr Guyula, J Davis and K McNamara to leave the Chamber for one hour pursuant to Standing Order 49.

Mr Patel.

Debate adjourned on the motion of Mr Edgington.

11. CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE, GOVERNMENT RESPONSES AND AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS

Order of the day read for the resumption of debate on the question that the Public Accounts Committee Report on the Inquiry into the Howard Springs Accommodation Village 2023 Flood Evacuation Costs be noted.

Question put and passed.

12. CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE, GOVERNMENT RESPONSES AND AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS

Order of the day read for the resumption of debate on the question that the Public Accounts Committee Report on the Inquiry into the Darwin Waterfront Corporation be noted.

Question put and passed.

13. CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE, GOVERNMENT RESPONSES AND AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS

Order of the day read for the resumption of debate on the question that the Public Accounts Committee Report on the Inquiry into the Darwin Ship Lift Project be noted.

Question put and passed.

14. CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE, GOVERNMENT RESPONSES AND AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS

Order of the day read for the resumption of debate on the question that the Public Accounts Committee Report on the Inquiry into the Indigenous Employment Provisional Sum be noted.

Question put and passed.

15. DEBATE ON PETITION

Petition Number 19: Order of the day read for the debate on Petition Number 19, praying for a review of the safety conditions for pedestrians and cyclists on Bagot Road.

Order lapsed.

16. ADJOURNMENT

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

Mr O'Gallagher, Ms Cahill, Mr Mackay, Mr Burgoyne, Mrs Zio, Mrs Hersey, Ms Uibo.

Member Named: Pursuant to Standing Order 50, the Speaker named K McNamara.

Suspension after Naming: Pursuant to Standing Order 51, the Speaker put the question that K McNamara be suspended from the service of the Assembly.

Question put and passed.

Period of Suspension: Pursuant to Standing Order 52, K McNamara was suspended from the service of the Assembly for a period of 24 hours.

Mrs Finocchiaro, Mr Howe, Mr Brown.

Personal Explanation: Mrs Hersey gave a personal explanation.

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

Mr Paech, J Davis, Dr Rahman, Mr Edgington, Mr Kerle.

Question put and passed.

The Assembly adjourned at 7.26 pm until Tuesday 10 March 2026 at 10.00 am.

DEEMED PAPERS

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

Assembly Members and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006

Northern Territory of Australia Remuneration Tribunal Report, No. 1 of 2025, Supplementary, Salaries and Other Entitlements of Assembly Members (Paper 594)

Children's Commissioner Act 2013

Annual Report 2024-25, Office of the Children's Commissioner Northern Territory, *Children's Commissioner Act 2013* (Paper 596)

Cobourg Peninsula Aboriginal Land, Sanctuary and Marine Park Act 1981

Annual Report 2024-2025, Cobourg Peninsula Sanctuary and Marine Park Board, *Cobourg Peninsula Aboriginal Land, Sanctuary and Marine Park Act 1981* (Paper 600)

Coroners Act 1993

Report to the Legislative Assembly, Coroner's Findings and Recommendations regarding Road Death 41 of 2024, Attorney-General, *Coroners Act 1993* (Paper 597)

Report to the Legislative Assembly, in the matter of Coroner's Findings and Recommendations regarding the Death of Grace Moulding, dated 12 January 2026, *Coroners Act 1993* (Paper 606)

Errata

Erratum, Annual Report 2024-25, NT Health, *Public Sector Employment and Management Act 1993* (refer to Tabled Paper 492, 23 October 2025) (Paper 601)

Health and Community Services Complaints Act 1998

Annual Report 2024-25, Health and Community Services Complaints Commission, *Health and Community Services Complaints Act 1998* (Paper 595)

Subordinate Legislation

Subordinate Legislation No. 1 of 2026, Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Amendment By-Laws 2026 (Paper 598)

Subordinate Legislation No. 13 of 2025, Building Amendment Regulations 2025 (Paper 604)

Local Government Grants Commission Act 1986

Annual Report 2024-25, Northern Territory Grant Commission, *Local Government Grants Commission Act 1986* (Paper 602)

National Trust (Northern Territory) Act 1976

Annual Report 2024-2025, National Trust of Australia (NT), *National Trust (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Paper 603)

Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park Act 1989

Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2025, Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park Board, *Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park Act 1989* (Paper 599)

Plumbers and Drainers Licensing Act 1983

Annual Report for the year ended 30 September 2025, NT Plumbers and Drainers Licensing Board, *Plumbers and Drainers Licensing Act 1983* (Paper 605)

ATTENDANCE

All members attended the meeting



RUSSELL KEITH
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly