Northern Territory of Australia
Legislative Assembly

Minutes of Proceedings

Meeting Number 40
Wednesday 26 November 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. MOTION: LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Pursuant to Standing Order 224, Ms Uibo moved that a leave of absence for today be granted to Mr Guyula for personal reasons.

Question put and passed.

3. VISITORS

On behalf of all members, the Speaker welcomed visitors from Mates4Mates present in the gallery.

4. CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AMENDMENT (WORKER SCREENING) BILL 2025 (SERIAL 49)

Ms Cahill (Minister for Child Protection), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Care and Protection of Children Act 2007*, and tabled an Explanatory Statement (Paper 549).

Ms Cahill 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. TOURISM NT AMENDMENT (INTEGRATION OF NTMEC) BILL 2025 (SERIAL 42)

Order of the day read for moving the second reading of the Tourism NT Amendment (Integration of NTMEC) Bill 2025 (Serial 42).

Ms Boothby (Minister for Tourism and Hospitality) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr Young, Mr Charls, Mr Paech, Mr Kerle, Ms Zio, 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.

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

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6. NOTICES

The following notices were given:

1. Mr Edgington (Minister for Alcohol Policy) will present on the next meeting day a Bill titled Alcohol Harm Reduction Amendment (Banned Drinker Orders) Bill 2025 (Serial 48).

2. Ms Cahill (Minister for Trade, Business and Asian Relations) will present on the next meeting day a Bill titled Trade, Business and Asian Relations Legislation Amendment (Streamlining Licensing Schemes and Other Matters) Bill 2025 (Serial 47).

7. QUESTIONS

2.01 Ms Uibo to Mrs Finocchiaro, redirected to Ms Cahill
2.05 Mr O'Gallagher to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.09 Mr Young to Mr Edgington
2.13 Mr Kerle to Mr Edgington
2.17 Mr Brown to Mrs Hersey
2.20 J Davis to Ms Boothby
2.24 Dr Rahman to Mrs Hersey
2.27 Mr Patel to Mr Maley
2.31 Mr Young to Ms Cahill
2.33 Mrs Zio to Mr Yan
2.37 Mr Paech to Ms Cahill
2.41 Mr Paech to Ms Cahill – Supplementary
2.41 Mr Howe to Ms Boothby
2.45 K McNamara to Ms Boothby, redirected to Mr Burgoyne
2.49 Mr Mackay to Ms Cahill
2.53 Mr Young to Mr Edgington
2.57 Mrs Carlson to Mr Charls

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

Ms Uibo, pursuant to Standing Order 114(2), asked the Speaker to write to relevant Ministers seeking a reason for the delay in responding to written question numbers 149 to 169.

Mr Young, pursuant to Standing Order 114(2), asked the Speaker to write to the Minister for Health seeking a reason for the delay in responding to written question number 146.

J Davis, pursuant to Standing Order 114(2), asked the Speaker to write to relevant Ministers seeking a reason for the delay in responding to written question numbers 111, 113, 133, 135, 136, 144 and 145.

8. MOTION: IMPROVING DECISION MAKING, INTEGRITY, TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN OUR PARLIAMENT

Order of the day read for the resumption of debate on the motion:

That the Assembly recognise the critical importance of improving decision making, integrity, transparency and accountability in our Parliament, and to that end, commits to the following measures:

- Re-establishing scrutiny committees that allow for public submissions and thorough review of Bills before the Parliament;
- Limiting government-to-government questions (Dorothy Dixers) in the chamber to a maximum of two out of every three parliamentary sitting days;
- Exploring pathways to enhance public engagement and participation in the legislative process, including through Citizens' Juries.

Mr Edgington (continuation of remarks), Mr Brown, Ms Uibo, J Davis (in reply).

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

Ayes 6

Mr Brown	J Davis	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			

Motion negatived.

9. MOTION: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS

Order of the day read for the resumption of debate on the motion:

That the Assembly:

- Recognises the importance of safeguarding the Territory environment for future generations and in support of our Territory lifestyle.
- Reaffirms support for the critical environmental protections the former Labor Government put in place including a contemporary *Environment Protection Act* best practice regulation for the environmental impacts of mining, the Climate Change Response: Towards 2050 policy; and The Territory Water Plan.
- Commits to not undermining watering down or changing our strong legislative and regulatory regime of environmental protections.

Mr Brown (continuation of remarks), Mr Paech (in reply).

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

Ayes 6

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

Noes 15

Mr Burgoyne	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	

Motion negatived.

10. MOTION: WATER SECURITY IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Order of the day read for the resumption of debate on the motion:

That the Assembly calls on the Northern Territory Country Liberal Party Government to:

- Work in partnership with the Commonwealth Government to undertake an independent and comprehensive review of the *Northern Territory Water Act 1992* and, where required implement legislative reforms based on scientific evidence;
- Commit to the continued implementation of priority actions identified in the Territory Water Plan, recognising that it is the Northern Territory's first whole-of-government strategic plan for water security and the result of comprehensive community and industry consultation;
- Honour the previous government's commitment and introduce the new Safe Drinking Water Act which was being developed by NT Health to be introduced to the Legislative Assembly by the end of 2024; and
- Introduce a moratorium on all new water licences and allocations in the Northern Territory until an independent review is carried out.

Mr Young, Mr Burgoyne, Ms Uibo, K McNamara.

Paper tabled: K McNamara, by leave, tabled: Article, Northern Territory Students' Society, Bearing the Voices of Hundreds, These Young Men Are Speaking Out on a Water Crisis Ignored For More Than a Decade by Nokthor Tripura, published dated November 2025 (Paper 551).

J Davis, Mr Paech (in reply).

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

Ayes 6

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

Noes 15

Ms Boothby	Mr Burgoyne	Mrs Carlson	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	

Motion negatived.

11. MOTION: SELECT COMMITTEE ON PATHWAYS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Order of the day read for the resumption of debate on the motion:

That this Assembly:

1. Notes
   a. On 16 October 2024 the Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Corrections moved the Criminal Code Amendment Bill 2024 be read for a second time, stating one purpose of the Bill was ensuring 10 and 11-year-old children who commit offences have "appropriate rehabilitation that will provide them an opportunity to turn their young lives around".
   b. The vital responsibility that this Government owes to all children and young people in the Territory, including a responsibility under section 4(b) of the *Youth Justice Act 2005* to ensure that young people who commit offences are "dealt with in a way that acknowledges [their]

needs and will provide [them] with the opportunity to develop in socially responsible ways".

c. The vital responsibility that this Government owes to all Territorian children and young people, Police, Corrections Officers, Judges, and Justices; including a responsibility under sections 4(c) and 81(6) of the *Youth Justice Act 2005* to provide them with appropriate alternatives to detention and imprisonment.

2. Establishes a Select Committee on Pathways for Children and Young People to inquire into and report on:
   a. The alternatives to detention and imprisonment available to police, corrections officers, judges, and justices when dealing with 10- and 11-year-old offenders.
   b. Additional pathways needed to help police, corrections officers, judges, and justices prevent reoffending and provide children with opportunities to make safer, more responsible choices with the support of meaningful and engaging programs.
3. The committee will comprise 3 Government, 1 Opposition and 2 crossbench members to be nominated by the relevant whip or crossbench member to the Speaker in writing.
4. The committee is to report by the first sitting day, 6 months after the passing of this motion.

Mr Howe, Mr Maley, Ms Uibo, Mr Paech, J Davis (in reply).

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

Ayes 6

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

Noes 15

Ms Boothby	Mr Burgoyne	Mrs Carlson	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	

Motion negatived.

12. PAPERS TABLED

The Speaker tabled the following papers:

1. Auditor-General's Report No. 4: Auditor General's Report No. 4: Annual Report 2024-25 Audit of the Treasurer's Annual Financial Report, Northern Territory Auditor-General's Office, *Audit Act 1995* (Paper 552).
2. Auditor-General's Report No. 5: Auditor-General's Report No. 5: Annual Report 2024-25, Auditor-General's Office, Results of Financial Audits, Northern Territory Auditor-General's Office, *Audit Act 1995* (Paper 553).

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

Mrs Finocchiaro, Mr Young, Mr Maley, Mr O'Gallagher, Mr Paech, Mr Yan, Mr Howe, K McNamara, Mr Brown, Mr Burgoyne, Mrs Lambley, Mrs Carlson, Mrs Hersey, Mr Kerle, Dr Rahman, Ms Boothby, Ms Uibo, Mr Mackay.

Paper tabled: Mr Mackay, by leave, tabled: Article, NT News, Palmerston Rugby Union Club's Caleb Burke steps down as coach following training incident by Nathaniel Chambers and Darcy Jennings, dated 15 October 2025 (Paper 554).

Mr Patel, Mr Charls.

Question put and passed.

The Assembly adjourned at 9.36 pm until Thursday 27 November 2025 at 10.00 am.

DEEMED PAPER

Pursuant to Standing Order 239 the following paper was deemed tabled:

Police (Special Investigative and Other Powers) Act 2015

Report to Minister for Police, Controlled Operations 2024-25, Ombudsman NT, *Police (Special Investigative and Other Powers) Act 2015* (Paper 550)

ATTENDANCE

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



RUSSELL KEITH
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly