Northern Territory of Australia
Legislative Assembly

Minutes of Proceedings

Meeting Number 11
Wednesday 12 February 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. SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

The Speaker advised of a professional photographer being present to take photos of the members during the lunch suspension and Question Time.

3. TERRITORY COORDINATOR BILL 2025 (SERIAL 17)

Mrs Finocchiaro (Minister for Territory Coordinator), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to provide for the appointment of a Territory Coordinator, to facilitate the undertaking of significant projects and works, to provide for the designation of infrastructure coordination areas and Territory development areas, to expedite certain statutory processes and decisions and for related purposes, and tabled an Explanatory Statement (Paper 187).

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

Question put and passed.

Bill read a first time.

Mrs Finocchiaro moved that the Bill be referred to the Legislative Scrutiny Committee for report by 12 March 2025.

Question put and passed.

Visitor: On behalf of all members, the Speaker welcomed Mr Neil Bell, former Member for MacDonnell, present in the gallery.

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4. CORRECTIONAL SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025 (SERIAL 12)

Mr Maley (Minister for Corrections), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Correctional Services Act 2014* and the Correctional Services Regulations 2014, and tabled an Explanatory Statement (Paper 188).

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.

Mr Maley moved that the Bill be declared to be urgent.

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 6

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

Motion passed.

Mr Maley moved that the second reading of the Bill be made an order of the day for a later hour.

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 6

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

Motion passed.

5. FISCAL INTEGRITY AND TRANSPARENCY AMENDMENT BILL 2025 (SERIAL 15)

Mr Yan (Treasurer), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Fiscal Integrity and Transparency Act 2001*, and tabled an Explanatory Statement (Paper 189).

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 second reading of the Bill be made an order of the day for the first Assembly meeting after 28 days have elapsed.

J Davis moved the following amendment:

> That the motion be amended and that 'the bill be referred to the Scrutiny Committee'.

K McNamara, Mr Yan.

Question, that the amendment 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			

Amendment not agreed to.

Question, that the second reading of the Bill be made an order of the day for the first Assembly meeting after 28 days have elapsed, 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 6

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

Motion passed.

6. PETROLEUM, PLANNING AND WATER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025 (SERIAL 11)

Mr Burgoyne (Minister for Land, Planning and Environment), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Petroleum Act 1984*, the *Planning Act 1999*, the *Water Act 1992*, the Petroleum (Environment) Regulations 2016 and the Planning Regulations 2000, and tabled an Explanatory Statement (Paper 190).

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 second reading of the Bill be made an order of the day for the first Assembly meeting after 28 days have elapsed.

Mr Paech moved the following amendment:

> That the motion be amended to include that the Petroleum, Planning and Water Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 be referred to the Legislative Scrutiny Committee for review and community stakeholder consultation.

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

Question, that the amendment 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			

Amendment not agreed to.

Question, that the second reading of the Bill be made an order of the day for the first Assembly meeting after 28 days have elapsed, put and passed.

7. MINISTERIAL REPORT: 2025 YEAR OF ACTION

Order of the day read for the resumption of debate on the question that the report be noted.

Mr Edgington, J Davis, Mr Maley, Mr Howe.

Debate interrupted.

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

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8. NOTICES

The following notices were given:

1. Mrs Finocchiaro (Minister for Police) will present on the next meeting day a Bill titled Police Administration Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 (Serial 16).

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

   That the NT Legislative Assembly calls on the Government to work with community representatives and sector experts to develop and implement a comprehensive, evidence-based alcohol action plan for the Northern Territory, which:

   1. Addresses the widespread harms caused by alcohol and the root causes of these.
   2. Includes strategies for prevention, harm reduction, early intervention, and support for those struggling with alcohol dependence.
   3. Balances common sense measures that benefit the health and wellbeing of Territorians, based on what evidence suggests will be most likely to improve rates of harm.
   4. Supports people to effectively break cycles of alcohol problems, complex social issues and involvement in the justice system, in ways that can have intergenerational benefits.
   5. Recognises that there is not a one-size-fits-all approach and ensures that local communities, particularly Aboriginal communities, are informed and engaged in the development of tailored solutions that reflect their specific needs and concerns.
   6. Strengthens support for health services, law enforcement, and emergency responders who respond to alcohol-related harms.

7. Takes a holistic approach that empowers communities, supports families, and builds long-term, sustainable solutions to reduce alcohol-related harm in the Northern Territory.
8. Acknowledges the role of alcohol in exacerbating domestic, family and sexual violence and prioritises the safety of women and children.
9. Removes the undue influence of the alcohol lobby in the development and implementation of alcohol policy, ensuring decisions are made in the public interest and based on evidence rather than commercial interests.
10. Ensures a long-term vision and commitment to effective alcohol policy, with clear commitments and funding across electoral cycles and progress monitored through measurable outcomes.

3. Ms Boothby (Attorney-General) will present on the next meeting day a Bill titled Defamation Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 (Serial 13).

4. Mrs Hersey (Minister for Education and Training) will present on the next meeting day a Bill titled Education Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 (Serial 14).

5. K McNamara informed the Assembly of the amendment to the General Business Notice No. 1, Improving integrity in Parliament:

That the NT Legislative Assembly:

- Recognises the importance of integrity in our parliamentary system both to ensure that decisions are made in the best interests of Territorians and to ensure that there is public trust in our democratic processes.
- Acknowledges that public trust in politics is at an all-time low and this is due to the influence of lobbyists and vested corporate interests on our politics.
- Urges the Government to establish an effective lobbyist register that includes the following best practice elements:
  - The registration of in-house lobbyists as well as third-party lobbyists
  - A Lobbyist Code of Conduct with financial penalties for breaches
  - Transparency for the public, through the publishing of Ministerial diaries
  - A 4-year cooling off period between ministerial roles and lobbyist jobs.

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

That a select committee to be known as the Select Committee on the Indigenous Employment Provisional Sum (IEPS) be established to inquire into and report on the Auditor-General's November 2018 Report to the Legislative Assembly at pages 31 to 66 in respect of the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, including but not limited to consideration of:

a) the full extent of overpayments to all IEPS contractors;
b) options for repayment by contractors of all unrecovered overpayments; and
c) in cases of *prima facie* evidence of fraud, the merits of legal proceedings based on advice from relevant government agencies.

1. That the committee be comprised of government, opposition and Independent members;
2. That the committee have the power to report to the Assembly from time to time; and
3. That the Committee present its final report to the Assembly on or before 31 October 2025.

9. PETITION

Petition Number 8: Mr Young presented Petition Number 8 from 649 petitioners praying that the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory takes action to ensure that the Port Keats Road upgrade commences in 2025 (Paper 191).

Petition read.

Mr Young moved that Petition Number 8 be referred to the Public Accounts Committee.

Question put and passed.

10. QUESTIONS

2.06 Ms Uibo to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.10 Mr Kerle to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.13 Mr Young to Mr Yan
2.18 Dr Rahman to Mr Yan
2.22 J Davis to Mr Maley
2.26 Mr Howe to Mr Edgington
2.30 Ms Uibo to Mrs Hersey
2.33 Ms Uibo to Mrs Hersey – Supplementary
2.33 Mr Paech to Mr Burgoyne
2.37 Mr Mackay to Mr Maley
2.41 Mr Patel to Mr Edgington
2.44 Mr Brown to Mr Charls
2.48 Mr O'Gallagher to Ms Cahill
2.52 K McNamara to Mr Maley
2.57 Mrs Zio to Mr Yan
2.58 J Davis to Mr Yan
3.00 Mrs Zio to Mr Yan

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

11. MOTION: IMPROVING INTEGRITY IN PARLIAMENT

K McNamara, pursuant to notice, moved:

That the NT Legislative Assembly:

- Recognises the importance of integrity in our parliamentary system both to ensure that decisions are made in the best interests of Territorians and to ensure that there is public trust in our democratic processes.
- Acknowledges that public trust in politics is at an all-time low and this is due to the influence of lobbyists and vested corporate interests on our politics.
- Urges the Government to establish an effective lobbyist register that includes the following best practice elements:
    - The registration of in-house lobbyists as well as third-party lobbyists
    - A Lobbyist Code of Conduct with financial penalties for breaches
    - Transparency for the public, through the publishing of Ministerial diaries
    - A 4-year cooling off period between ministerial roles and lobbyist jobs.

Paper Tabled: K McNamara, by leave, tabled: Report, The Centre for Public Integrity, In Whose Interest? The case for reforming the Northern Territory lobbying regime (Paper 192).

Visitors: On behalf of all members, the Speaker welcomed Mrs Alice Howe and her daughter present in the gallery.

Ms Uibo, Mr Young, Mr Edgington, Mr Howe, Mr Paech, J Davis, Mr Brown, K McNamara (in reply).

Question, that the motion 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			

Motion negatived.

12. MOTION: ABORIGINAL REMOTE HOUSING PROGRAM

Mr Paech, pursuant to notice, moved:

That the Assembly calls on the CLP Government to:

- Commit to the full implementation of the $4 billion Aboriginal Remote Housing program.
- Guarantee that the target of a minimum of 2,700 houses built over ten years is met.
- Commit that no amendments will be made to this agreement without the full support of the Joint Steering Committee of Remote Housing Northern Territory.

Mr Guyula, Mr Edgington.

Mr Edgington moved the following amendment:

Replace Dot Point 1 with the following:

- Continue delivering the $4 billion Aboriginal Remote Housing program as agreed under National Partnership for Remote Housing NT Agreement.

Replace Dot Point 2 with the following:

- Work towards delivering up to 2,700 houses over ten years consistent with the terms of the National Partnership for Remote Housing NT Agreement.

Replace Dot Point 3 with the following:

- Continue engaging with the Joint Steering Committee of Remote Housing Northern Territory to deliver Aboriginal Remote Housing.

J Davis, Mr Young, Mr Yan, Mr Brown, Mr Paech.

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

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

13. PAPERS TABLED

The Speaker tabled:

1. Quarterly Members' Fuel Transaction Report, Quarter 3, July to September 2024 (Paper 193).
2. Quarterly Members' Fuel Transaction Report, Quarter 4, October to December 2024 (Paper 194).

14. ADJOURNMENT

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

J Davis, Mr Paech, Mr Young.

Question put and passed.

The Assembly adjourned at 7.30 pm until Thursday 13 February 2025 at 10.00 am.

DEEMED PAPER

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

Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory Act 2014

Annual Report 2023-2024, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, *Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory Act 2014* (Paper 186)

ATTENDANCE

All members attended the meeting.



RUSSELL KEITH
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly