Northern Territory of Australia
Legislative Assembly

Minutes of Proceedings

Meeting Number 21
Wednesday 14 May 2025

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1. **MEETING ON 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 the presence of media in the Chamber to record the Leader of the Opposition's Budget reply speech.

3. **VISITORS**
On behalf of all members, the Speaker welcomed Ms Marion Scrymgour MP, Member for Lingiari, and students and teachers from Zuccoli Primary School present in the gallery.

4. **APPROPRIATION (2025-2026) BILL 2025 (SERIAL 25) AND REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025 (SERIAL 26)**
Order of the day read for the resumption of the cognate debate on the question that the Bills be now read a second time.

Ms Uibo.

Visitors: On behalf of all members, the Speaker welcomed Ms Jane Aagaard, former Speaker and Member for Nightcliff, present in the gallery.

Mr Maley, Mr Guyula, Mrs Hersey.

Debate interrupted.

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

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5. **VISITORS**
On behalf of all members, the Speaker welcomed students and teachers from Darwin High School present in the gallery.

6. NOTICES

The following notices were given:

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

   That this Assembly:

   1. Affirms the critical importance of integrity, transparency, and accountability in the Northern Territory public sector and all levels of government;
   2. Acknowledges growing public concern about misconduct, conflicts of interest, and corruption in parts of the NT public sector, whether actual or perceived, and the need to restore trust in government institutions;
   3. Notes the current limitations in investigative and enforcement powers available to integrity bodies in the Northern Territory, including but not limited to the Office of the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption (ICAC), particularly in relation to whistleblower protection, transparency of outcomes, and responsiveness and action on complaints;
   4. Calls on the Northern Territory Government to:
      a) Strengthen ICAC's independence, powers, and resources to ensure thorough and timely investigations;
      b) Create a cross-party Parliamentary Integrity and Oversight Committee to monitor and report on ethical conduct and integrity issues across government;
      c) Implement a public register of interests for senior public servants, statutory officeholders, and ministerial staff, which will be updated regularly and subject to independent audit;
      d) Introduce a mandatory Code of Conduct for public sector agencies, with clear standards, reporting obligations, and consequences for breaches;
      e) Strengthen whistleblower protections, including anonymous reporting, legal safeguards, and accessible complaint pathways;
      f) Commission an independent review of integrity frameworks across the Territory, including complaints handling, conflict-of-interest management, and procurement practices;
      g) Revise the lobbyist regime to require a public, real-time Register of Lobbyists, including details on lobbyists, Ministers or Members involved, and the matters under consideration, as well as the publication of Ministerial diaries.
   5. Commits this Assembly to leading by example by adopting stronger internal accountability measures, improving committee transparency, and ensuring the community has confidence in the integrity of its elected representatives and democratic institutions.

2. Mr Young will move on next General Business day:

   That the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly:

   - Call on the Finocchiaro CLP Government to address the high cost of airfares as a priority to support the Territory's economic development and Territorian's liveability standards.

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

   That the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly:

   - Recognise the importance of investing in viable and accessible Youth Services across the Northern Territory.

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

That the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly:

1. Recognise the Northern Territory's unique biodiversity—its ecosystems, wildlife and cultural landscapes—and the vital role it plays in our lifestyle heritage, economy and resilience.
2. Notes with concern rising threats to biodiversity, including habitat loss, invasive species, climate change and unsustainable land use.
3. Highlights the current lack of comprehensive biodiversity legislation, leaving protection and management of our natural assets inadequate.
4. Commends local communities, Traditional Owners, and environmental organisations for their advocacy and stewardship.
5. Calls on the CLP Government to:
    - Develop and introduce robust biodiversity laws that:
        - Protect native species and threatened habitats.
        - Prevent and control invasive species.
        - Promote sustainable land and water use alongside economic development.
        - Embed Aboriginal cultural landscapes and traditional knowledge in management.
    - Consult transparently with Traditional Owners, land councils, scientists, conservation groups, pastoralists and industry.
    - Allocate sufficient funding and resources for implementation, monitoring and enforcement.
    - Set clear, measurable targets aligned with national and international conservation goals.
6. Urges the Government to show leadership in safeguarding our natural heritage so future Territorians can continue to enjoy the landscapes that define our region.

7. QUESTIONS

2.05 Ms Uibo to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.09 Ms Uibo to Mrs Finocchiaro – Supplementary
2.10 Mrs Carlson to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.14 Mr Young to Ms Boothby
2.18 Mrs Zio to Mr Yan
2.22 Mr Paech to Ms Boothby
2.27 Mr Mackay to Mr Maley
2.31 Ms Uibo to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.35 Mr Kerle to Mrs Hersey
2.39 Mr Brown to Mr Edgington
2.43 Dr Rahman to Ms Cahill
2.47 K McNamara to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.51 Mr Howe to Mr Yan
2.54 Mr Young to Ms Boothby
2.58 Mr O'Gallagher to Mr Charls
3.01 Mr Brown to Mr Charls
3.05 Mr Patel to Mr Edgington

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

8. MOTION: VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING

J Davis, pursuant to notice, moved:

That this Assembly:

- Acknowledge the important and extensive work of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Independent Expert Advisory Panel in producing the Report into Voluntary Assisted Dying in the Northern Territory.
- Recognise the right for Territorians to end their lives with dignity and the immense suffering that is caused for them and their families when this right is taken away from them.
- Recognise that the Northern Territory, the first jurisdiction in the world to legalise voluntary assisted dying, is now the last in Australia to pass this law.
- Urge the Government to implement the 22 recommendations of the Report into Voluntary Assisted Dying in the Northern Territory, acknowledging that many Territorians, from all political persuasions want the right to die with dignity in the Territory.

Ms Boothby moved the following amendment:

Omit all words after the first dot point and insert instead:

- Note the Attorney General has referred the matter to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee to report back by the end of September 2025. The Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee has been provided the following Terms of Reference:
  - Prepare a consolidated consultation paper, drawing upon previous reports, inquiries, proposals, and the Rights of the Terminally Ill Act 1995 (NT).
  - Consult extensively with communities across the Northern Territory, particularly in remote areas, to gather views on the possible introduction of voluntary assisted dying in the NT.
  - Evaluate different voluntary assisted dying models and safeguards, with a focus on those that would be appropriate for the Northern Territory context.
  - Identify any specific challenges associated with delivering voluntary assisted dying in the Northern Territory.
  - If the Committee recommends adoption, provide drafting instructions for model legislation to give effect to voluntary assisted dying in the NT.
- Call on members of the Assembly to respect the deeply felt views on this issue right across the community and participate in respectful debate on this important subject.

K McNamara, Ms Uibo, Mrs Lambley, Mr Paech, Mr Guyula.

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

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

9. MOTION: PROTECTING TERRITORIANS FROM GAMBLING HARMS

K McNamara, pursuant to notice, moved:

That the NT Legislative Assembly:

- Acknowledge that gambling and pokies cause significant harm in our community.
- Recognise that the financial and social costs to our economy and community from gambling and pokies far outweigh any benefits from the Community Benefit Fund.

- Recognise that the current taxation on gambling profits is woefully inadequate.
- Calls on the CLP Government to:
    - Minimise harm from pokies by -
        - Introducing pre-commitment systems to all venues with pokies, including casinos.
        - Reduce the load up limit for pokies to $100.
    - Increase transparency on the gambling industry by -
        - Reintroduce mandatory publishing of venue earnings/taxation.
        - Publish monthly venue-specific data in line with other jurisdictions.
        - Release the publicly funded NT Gambling Prevalence and Wellbeing Survey report within a month of receipt.
    - Increase revenue for the NT and make online gambling companies pay their fair share of tax by -
        - Increase the tax on gambling corporations using NT bookmaker/betting exchange licenses
        - Remove the cap on this tax.
    - Improve integrity and accountability to the public by banning all gifts from individuals or companies in the gambling industry to MLAs, their staff and other statutory decision makers.

Mr Paech moved the following amendment:

Omit all words after:

"significant harm in our community."

Insert

- Recognise the financial and social costs to our economy and community from gambling and pokies.
- Establish a Select Committee on Gambling Harms to inquire into and report on:
    a) measures introduced in other jurisdictions;
    b) identify social and economic impacts of gambling; and
    c) develop a best-practice gambling harm minimisation strategy for the Northern Territory.

The Committee will comprise 2 government, 2 opposition and 2 crossbench members.

The committee is to report by the first sitting day, 6 months after the passing of this motion.

Ms Boothby, J Davis, K McNamara (in reply).

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

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

Ayes 3

J Davis	Mr Guyula	K McNamara

Noes 21

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	Mr Brown	Mr Paech	Ms Uibo
Mr Young			

Motion negatived.

10. MOTION: SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT PROVISIONAL SUM

J Davis, pursuant to notice, moved:

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.

Mr Edgington moved the following amendment:

Omit all words after:

"That"

insert

"the Public Accounts Committee 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.

And that the Committee present its final report to the Assembly on or before 31 October 2025."

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

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

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

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

J Davis, pursuant to notice, moved:

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.

It being 7.00 pm, debate interrupted.

12. MOTION: ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2025

Mr Edgington, pursuant to notice, moved that:

That the Assembly resolves that:

1. There be appointed an Estimates Committee of the Legislative Assembly (the Committee) for the purposes of examining and reporting on the:
   1. estimates of proposed expenditure contained in the Appropriation (2025-2026) Bill (the Appropriation Bill) and related budget documents, and
   2. Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 (Serial 26), and
   3. activities, performance, practices and financial management of the Power and Water Corporation, Jacana Energy and Territory Generation, with reference to those corporations' Statements of Corporate Intent 2025-26.

2. The membership of the Committee will be three Government members, one Opposition member and one cross-bench member to be nominated in writing to the Speaker by the relevant Whip or cross-bench member. Nominations to the Speaker should occur no later than Monday 19 May 2025.
3. The Committee may hold hearings on the following days:
   Tuesday, 10 June 2025
   Wednesday, 11 June 2025
   Thursday, 12 June 2025
   Monday, 16 June 2025
   Tuesday, 17 June 2025
   Wednesday, 18 June 2025
   Thursday, 19 June 2025
4. The total time for hearings of the Committee may not exceed 60 hours.
5. The maximum time of the appearance of the Chief Minister and the Treasurer shall not exceed 8 hours. For each other Minister and the Speaker the maximum time of their appearance shall not exceed 7 hours.
6. The Committee will publish a schedule of the days and times of hearings, and the times allotted for hearing from Ministers, the Speaker and Board Chairs by Friday 23 May 2025. The Committee may only amend the published schedule with the consent of the Leader of Government Business.
7. The Committee shall examine the proposed expenditure contained in the Appropriation Bill by portfolios in accordance with an agenda published by the Committee and the proposed expenditure shall be considered on an output by output basis for each portfolio unit.
8. All questions should conform to Standing Order 109 and answers will be concise and directly relevant to the question asked.
9. Answers to questions taken on notice during the hearings, or additional information about an answer given by or on behalf of a Minister, the Speaker or Board Chair, are to be written and given to the Estimates Committee Secretariat by 14 July 2025. Answers or additional information so received are authorised for publication.
10. The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly is authorised to publish a transcript of the Committee proceedings, whether or not it has been edited, as soon as practicable.
11. Evidence taken in public by the Committee and documents presented to the Committee are deemed to be authorised for publication by the Committee, unless the Committee orders otherwise.
12. At a hearing of the Committee, the Chair may, after a warning, order any member of the Assembly whose conduct, in the opinion of the Chair, continues to be disorderly or disruptive to immediately withdraw from the Committee for a period of 1 hour.
13. Following its second reading, the Bill stands referred to the Committee for report by 19 June 2025 after which consideration in detail will take place followed by the third reading.
14. The Assembly's Routine of Business for Thursday, 19 June 2025 is:
    1. 2.30pm
       Prayers and Acknowledgement of Country
    2. Report from Estimates Committee and consideration of the Appropriation (2025-2026) Bill 2025 and the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2025
15. When the Committee's report on the Appropriation Bill is presented, the Assembly shall immediately consider the question:
    that the expenditure proposed in the Appropriation (2025-2026) Bill stand as printed, and the report of the Estimates Committee be noted.
16. The following time limits shall apply to the debate on this question:

- Ministers, Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Ministers: 20 minutes;
- Any other member: 10 minutes;
- The maximum period for consideration shall be 5 hours.

17. When the question on the expenditure proposed in the Appropriation Bill is agreed to, the following question is proposed and put immediately:
    that the remainder of the Bill and the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill stand as printed.
18. When the Bills have been agreed to by the Assembly, their third reading may be taken into consideration immediately.
19. This resolution shall have effect notwithstanding anything contained in Standing and Sessional Orders.

Question put and passed.

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

Ms Boothby, Mr Paech, Mrs Hersey, J Davis.

Question put and passed.

The Assembly adjourned at 7.30 pm until Thursday 15 May 2025 10.00 am.

ATTENDANCE

All members attended the meeting.

RUSSELL KEITH
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly