NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting Number 21
Wednesday 12 May 2021

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1. MEETING

The Assembly met at 10.00. The Speaker, the Honourable Ngaree Ah Kit, presided.

2. PRAYERS

Mr Bowden read the prayer.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Mr Paech delivered the acknowledgement of country on behalf of the Assembly.

4. VISITORS

The Speaker advised Honourable Members of the presence in the gallery of Year 5 students from Good Shepherd College – Palmerston Campus, accompanied by their teachers.

On behalf of all Members the Speaker welcomed the visitors.

5. SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

The Speaker made a statement regarding International Nurses Day.

6. MINISTERIAL REPORT: LOCAL DECISION MAKING

Ms Uibo (Minister for Treaty and Local Decision Making) presented a Ministerial Report regarding Local Decision Making.

Ms Uibo moved that the Assembly take note of the report.

Mr Edgington.

Visitor: The Speaker advised Honourable Members of the presence in the gallery of Mr Fredrick Edgington, father of the Member for Barkly.

On behalf of all Members the Speaker welcomed the visitor.

Mr Paech, Mr Monaghan, Mrs Lambley, Mr Bowden, Ms Lawler, Mr Costa.

Report noted.

7. MOTION: ATTENDANCE OF THE MEMBER FOR MULKA AT MEETINGS OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE AGREED TO

Mr Paech (Acting Leader of Government Business), pursuant to notice, moved:

Standing Order 193 (2) is suspended insofar as it would otherwise prevent the Member for Mulka attending the Public Accounts Committee's deliberative or in camera meetings regarding any inquiry into Local Decision Making or related matters.

Question put and passed.

8. NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME (WORKER CLEARANCE) AMENDMENT BILL 2021 (SERIAL 21): BILL AGREED TO

Resumption of debate on the question that the Bill be read a second time.

Mr Yan, Mrs Worden.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

By leave, on the motion of Mrs Worden (Minister for Disabilities), the Bill was read a third time and passed to be a proposed law.

Suspension of Meeting: The meeting of the Assembly was suspended between 11.55 and 14.00.

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9. NOTICES

The following notices were given:

1. Ms Uibo (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) will present on the next Meeting Day a Bill entitled Statute Law Amendment (Territory Economic Reconstruction) Bill 2021 (Serial 26).
2. Mr Gunner (Chief Minister) on the next Meeting Day will move:

   That the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly recommends the appointment of Mr Michael Riches as the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption
3. Mrs Finocchiaro (Leader of the Opposition) on the next Meeting Day will move:

That this Assembly:

1. In accordance with Standing Order 180 the Assembly appoints a Select Committee to investigate the Territory's high police attrition rates and how to improve police retention rates.
2. The Committee must consider:
   a. Reasons members leave the force;
   b. NT attrition rates comparative to other jurisdictions;
   c. The impact of overtime, under recruiting, resourcing, housing and infrastructure;
   d. Length of service before separation;
   e. Trust between members and Government;
   f. Job satisfaction; and
   g. Employee services.
3. The Committee must report to the Assembly by the last Meeting Day of March 2022.

4. The membership of the Committee will be two Opposition Members, three Government Members and one Independent to be nominated to the Speaker in writing by the relevant Whip and the Independent Member.

10. QUESTIONS

14.02 Mrs Finocchiaro to Mr Gunner
14.06 Mr Bowden to Mr Gunner
14.10 Mr Maley to Ms Lawler
14.14 Mr Monaghan to Ms Lawler
14.17 Mr Sloan to Mrs Manison
14.21 Mr Costa to Mr Kirby
14.24 Mrs Hersey to Ms Moss
14.28 Mr Bowden to Mrs Manison
14.32 Mr Yan to Mrs Worden
14.36 Mr Monaghan to Ms Moss
14.39 Mr Edgington to Ms Uibo
14.43 Mr Costa to Ms Uibo
14.46 Mrs Lambley to Mr Paech
14.50 Mrs Lambley to Mr Paech – Supplementary

Visitor: The Speaker advised Honourable Members of the presence in the gallery of former Member for Casuarina and Lord Mayor of the City of Darwin, Mr Kon Vatskalis.

On behalf of all Members the Speaker welcomed the visitor.

14.52 Ms Boothby to Mr Kirby
14.57 Mr Costa to Mrs Worden

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

11. MOTION: PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE PUBLIC STATEMENT NOT AGREED TO

Mr Maley (Deputy Leader of the Opposition), pursuant to notice, moved:

That the Privileges Committee provide a public statement today detailing:

- How many meetings it has had to date;
- What evidence it has considered to date;
- What evidence it has decided not to consider; and
- Why it failed to complete its report by 6 May as required.

Further, the public statement provide a timeline of committee work, including but not limited to:

- The number of meetings, interviews, written and oral evidence and hearings it will undertake between now and 2022; and
- Set out the processes that will be undertaken by the committee by 2022.

Ms Boothby, Mr Yan, Mrs Lambley, Mr Edgington, Mr Paech, Mr Maley.

Question put.

The Assembly divided:

Ayes 8	**Noes 14**
Ms Boothby	Ms Ah Kit
Mr Edgington	Mr Bowden
Mrs Finocchiaro	Mr Costa
Mrs Hersey	Mr Gunner
Mrs Lambley	Mr Kirby
Mr Maley	Ms Lawler
Mr Sloan	Mrs Manison
Mr Yan	Mr Monaghan
	Ms Moss
	Mr Paech
	Ms Purick
	Mr Turner
	Ms Uibo
	Mrs Worden

Pairs: Ms Fyles and Mr Burgoyne.

Motion not agreed to.

12. MOTION: POST-COVID ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT

Mrs Finocchiaro (Leader of the Opposition), pursuant to notice, moved:

That this Assembly:

- Recognise that immediate action is needed to streamline government processes, remove red tape and grow the Territory economy;
- Admonish the Gunner Government for failing to implement necessary reforms in the last term of government that would have aided the Territory's recovery at this point; and
- Calls upon the Government to immediately take action to progress private investment approvals that are currently in process, including current major projects.

Mr Kirby.

Mr Kirby moved:

To remove all words after 'that', and replace with:

this Assembly:

- Acknowledge the action that has been taken to streamline government processes, remove red tape and grow the Territory economy;
- Note the Government has implemented significant reforms that will aid with the Territory's recovery; and
- Note that the Government has implemented significant reforms to progress private investment and improve approval processes including for major projects.

Mr Maley, Ms Uibo, Mrs Hersey, Ms Lawler.

Debate suspended.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Mr Paech (Acting Leader of Government Business) moved that the Assembly adjourn.

Mrs Manison, Mr Yan, Ms Uibo, Ms Moss, Ms Lawler, Mr Bowden, Mr Kirby, Mr Paech.

The Assembly adjourned at 20.08 until Thursday, 13 May 2021 at 10.00.

DEEMED PAPERS

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

Annual Report 2019-2020

Jabiru Town Development Authority and Northern Territory Auditor-General's Independent Audit Report on Financial Statements (Paper 258)

Coroners Act 1993

Report to the Legislative Assembly – Coroner's Findings regarding deaths of Master W, Miss B and Master JK dated 10 May 2021 (Paper 250)

Financial Management Act 1995

Statement under section 19A(5), 20(2) and 21(3) (Paper 251)

Authorisation of Issue of Increased funds from Commonwealth, section 19A(1) dated 11 May 2021 (Paper 252)

Direction to Transfer Excess Appropriations, section 20(1) dated 11 May 2021 (Paper 253)

Determination of Proportions of Appropriations to be transferred after Redistribution of Business, section 21(1) dated 11 May 2021 (Paper 254)

Statements of Corporate Intent 2021-2022

Power and Water Corporation (Paper 255)

Territory Generation (Paper 256)

Jacana Energy (Paper 257)

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended the meeting, except Ms Fyles and Mr Burgoyne on leave.

MICHAEL TATHAM
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly