Northern Territory of Australia
Legislative Assembly

Minutes of Proceedings

Meeting Number 18
Thursday 27 March 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. **VISITORS**
On behalf of all members, the Speaker welcomed students and teachers from Wagaman Primary School present in the gallery.

3. **WATER AMENDMENT (ABORIGINAL WATER RESERVES) BILL 2025 (SERIAL 21)**
Mr Burgoyne (Minister for Water Resources), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Water Act 1992*, and tabled an Explanatory Statement (Paper 241).

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:

> Omit all words after 'That' and insert the following words:
> the Bill be referred to the Legislative Scrutiny Committee for report by 7 May 2025.

K McNamara, Mrs Finocchiaro, Ms Uibo, Mr Kerle, Dr Rahman, J Davis, Mr Burgoyne.

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

Ayes 6

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			

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.

4. TERRITORY ABORIGINAL SACRED SITES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025 (SERIAL 23)

Mr Burgoyne (Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989* and the Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Regulations 2004, and tabled an Explanatory Statement (Paper 242).

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.

Visitors: On behalf of all members, the Speaker welcomed students and teachers from Wagaman Primary School present in the gallery.

Mr Burgoyne moved that the Bill be referred to the Legislative Scrutiny Committee for report by 7 May 2025.

Mr Paech.

Question put and passed.

5. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: TERRITORY'S ENERGY FUTURE

Mr Maley (Minister for Renewables) made a statement regarding the Territory's Energy Future and moved that the Assembly take note of the statement.

Ms Uibo.

On the motion of Mr Edgington the debate was adjourned.

6. POLICE ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025 (SERIAL 16)

Order of the day read for moving the second reading of the Police Administration Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 (Serial 16).

Mr Edgington (Leader of Government Business), on behalf of the Minister for Police, moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr O'Gallagher.

Debate interrupted.

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

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7. NOTICES

The following notices were given:

1. Mr Guyula will move on the next General Business day:

   That the Legislative Assembly:
   Recognise the urgent need for Government to begin the work of creating genuine partnerships and shared decision making with all Aboriginal communities on all issues that affect Aboriginal people. This work must begin by providing support for the development of community groups that represent all clan and family groups within a community, and have authority to make decisions for the people of the community, in accordance with Aboriginal law.

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

   That this Assembly:
   1. Acknowledge that young people today are the first generation in modern history to be worse off than their parents. We are leaving our children a far harder world to flourish in than the one we inherited. We need to have long term solutions that we know will protect our children's future.
   2. Takes action to create long-lasting protections for the next generations of Northern Territorians by establishing a select committee to investigate and report on the creation of a Wellbeing of Future Generations Bill, that:
      - 2.1. Requires that intergenerational equity and wellbeing be considered and promoted in all government and public decision-making.
      - 2.2. Imposes a responsibility on government and public bodies to consider the long-term impact of their decisions.
      - 2.3. Requires a Statement of Compatibility with the provisions and objects of the Bill to be completed for Bills which are put before the Parliament.
      - 2.4. Establishes an independent officer, or appoints an existing public officer, to oversee compliance and conduct investigations regarding the Bill to ensure that its object are achieved.
      - 2.5. Conducts a comprehensive community consultation across the Territory to gather input for the creation of the Bill.
   3. That the committee be composed of two members from the government, two from the opposition, and two from the crossbench to be nominated in writing to the Speaker by the relevant Whip or crossbench member, with the chair being a non-government member.
   4. That the committee be able to report to the Assembly periodically, but must deliver its final report with recommendations within 12 months of this resolution.

8. PETITION

Petition Number 9: Mr Guyula presented Petition Number 9 from 116 petitioners praying for the immediate withdrawal of the proposal to establish the Territory Coordinator (Paper 243).

Petition read.

Mr Guyula moved that Petition Number 9 be referred to the Public Accounts Committee.

Question put and passed.

9. VISITOR

On behalf of all members, the Speaker welcomed Mr Wayne Craft present in the gallery.

10. QUESTIONS

2.03 Ms Uibo to Mrs Finocchiaro

Paper Tabled: Ms Uibo, by leave, tabled: Report, Mapping of current investment and activity to prevent and respond to domestic, family and sexual violence in the Northern Territory, Northern Territory Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Interagency Coordination and Reform Office, May 2023 (Paper 244).

Visitors: On behalf of all members, the Speaker welcomed students and teachers from The Essington School present in the gallery.

2.08 Mr O'Gallagher to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.12 Mr Paech to Ms Cahill
2.16 Mr Mackay to Mr Maley
2.20 Ms Uibo to Mrs Hersey
2.22 Mrs Zio to Mrs Hersey
2.26 K McNamara to Ms Boothby
2.30 Mr Mackay to Ms Boothby
2.33 J Davis to Mr Burgoyne
2.38 Mr Patel to Mr Yan
2.42 Mr Young to Mr Burgoyne
2.46 Mrs Carlson to Ms Cahill
2.50 Mr Brown to Ms Boothby
2.54 Mr Howe to Mr Charls
2.57 Mr Guyula to Mr Burgoyne
2.59 Mr Kerle to Mr Edgington

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

11. POLICE ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025 (SERIAL 16)

Order of the day read for the resumption of debate on the question that the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr O'Gallagher (continuation of remarks), Ms Boothby, Mrs Zio, Mr Kerle, Mr Guyula, J Davis, K McNamara, Mrs Hersey, Ms Uibo, Mrs Finocchiaro (in reply).

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

The Assembly considered the Bill in detail.

Clauses 1 to 4 stand as printed.

Clause 5.

Mr Guyula moved the following amendment:

Clause 5, proposed section 126AB

omit, insert

126AB Power to enter places for arrests relating to parole orders

(1) This section does not apply in relation to a place that is in an Aboriginal community, as defined in section 126AC(6).

(2) For the purpose of arresting a person under section 5G(2)(a) of the *Parole Act 1971*, a member may enter a place without a warrant if the member believes on reasonable grounds that the person is at the place.

(3) Despite subsection (2), a member must not enter a residential premises unless:

(a) the member believes on reasonable grounds that the person is at the residential premises; and

(b) any of the following occurs:

i. a warrant has been issued for the entry;

ii. an occupier of the residential premises requests the entry.

(4) A court may, on application by the Director of Public Prosecutions, issue a warrant authorising entry to residential premises for the purpose of arresting a person under section 5G(2)(a) of the *Parole Act 1971*.

(5) In this section:

residential premises, see section 126AC(6).

126AC Power to enter places in Aboriginal communities for arrests relating to parole orders

(1) A member may, for the purpose of arresting a person under section 5G(2)(a) of the *Parole Act 1971*, enter a place that is in an Aboriginal community only in accordance with this section.

(2) Before exercising a power under this section, the member must request assistance from an elder of the community to locate the person and bring the person to the member for arrest.

(3) Subject to subsections (4) and (5), the member may enter a place, without a warrant, if the member believes on reasonable grounds that the person is at the place.

(4) The member must not enter a residential premises unless:

(a) the member believes on reasonable grounds that the person is at the residential premises; and

(b) an occupier of the residential premises requests the entry; and

(c) an elder is present when the member enters the residential premises.

(5) The member must not enter a ceremonial ground unless:

(a) the member believes on reasonable grounds that the person is at the ceremonial ground; and

(b) an elder gives permission and is present when the member enters the ceremonial ground.

(6) In this section:

Aboriginal community means the following:

(a) a community located on Aboriginal land as defined in section 3(1) of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth);

(b) an area granted as an Aboriginal community living area under Part 8 of the *Pastoral Land Act 1992* or the corresponding previous legislation.

ceremonial ground means an area located on Aboriginal land for ceremonial purposes according to Aboriginal tradition.

elder, of an Aboriginal community, means a person who is recognised by the community as an authority within the community.

residential premises means a place that is occupied as a place of residence, including any surrounding yard or garden.

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

Ayes 6

Mr Brown	J Davis	Mr Guyula	Mr Paech
Ms Uibo	Mr Young		

Noes 16

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	Mr Yan	Mrs Zio

Amendment not agreed to.

Clause 5 stands as printed.

Clause 6 stands as printed.

Clause 7.

Mr Guyula moved the following amendment:

Clause 7, before proposed section 126E(1)

insert

(1AA) This section does not apply in relation to a place that is in an Aboriginal community, as defined in section 126F(6).

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

Ayes 6

Mr Brown	J Davis	Mr Guyula	Mr Paech
Ms Uibo	Mr Young		

Noes 16

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	Mr Yan	Mrs Zio

Amendment not agreed to.

Mr Guyula moved the following amendment:

Clause 7, after proposed section 126E

insert

126F Power to enter places in Aboriginal communities relating to prescribed respondents

(1) A member may, for the purpose of exercising a prescribed power in respect of a person who is a prescribed respondent, enter a place that is in an Aboriginal community only in accordance with this section.

(2) Before exercising a power under this section, the member must request assistance from an elder of the community to locate the person and bring the person to the member to exercise the member's prescribed powers in respect of the person.

(3) Subject to subsections (4) and (5), the member may enter a place, without a warrant, if the member suspects on reasonable grounds that the person may be at the place.

(4) The member must not enter a residential premises unless:

(a) the member suspects on reasonable grounds that the person may be at the residential premises; and
(b) an occupier of the residential premises requests the entry; and
(c) an elder is present when the member enters the residential premises.

(5) The member must not enter a ceremonial ground unless:

(a) the member suspects on reasonable grounds that the person may be at the ceremonial ground; and
(b) an elder gives permission and is present when the member enters the ceremonial ground.

(6) In this section:

Aboriginal community, see section 126AC(6).

ceremonial ground, see section 126AC(6).

elder, of an Aboriginal community, see section 126AC(6).

DVO, see section 126E(5).

prescribed power, see section 126E(5).

prescribed respondent, see section 126E(5).

residential premises, see section 126AC(6).

respondent, see section 126E(5).

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

Ayes 6

Mr Brown	J Davis	Mr Guyula	Mr Paech
Ms Uibo	Mr Young		

Noes 16

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	Mr Yan	Mrs Zio

Amendment not agreed to.

Clause 7 stands as printed.

Causes 8 to 11 stand as printed.

Remainder of the Bill stands as printed.

Bill agreed to.

Mrs Finocchiaro moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time

12. PAPERS TABLED

The Speaker tabled: *Legislative Assembly (Disclosure of Interests) Act 2008* Statement of Registrable Interests as at 10 March 2025 (Paper 245).

13. MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE: INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION

The Speaker advised the Assembly that Ms Uibo had proposed a Matter of Public Importance in the following terms:

> That the NT Government ensures its investment in education, particularly early childhood education, meets the current and projected needs of all Territorians.

Having received the necessary support, discussion ensued.

Mr Paech, Mrs Hersey, Mr Young, Mr Howe, Mr Kerle, J Davis, Mrs Zio, Mr Brown, Ms Uibo, Ms Cahill.

Discussion concluded.

14. ADJOURNMENT

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

Mr O'Gallagher, Mr Paech, J Davis, Ms Cahill, Mrs Zio, Mr Patel, Mr Edgington, Mrs Carlson, Mrs Hersey, Mr Howe, Mr Kerle.

Papers tabled: Mr Kerle, by leave, tabled:

1. Report, Achieving the Northern Territory Renewable Energy Target, A report for the Department of the Chief Minister, HousetonKemp Economics, April 2019 – Redacted (Paper 246).
2. Report, Achieving the Northern Territory Renewable Energy Target, A report for the Department of the Chief Minister, HousetonKemp Economics, April 2019 – Unredacted (Paper 247).

Ms Uibo.

Question put and passed.

The Assembly adjourned at 9.07 pm until Tuesday 13 May 2025 at 10.00 am.

DEEMED PAPERS

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

Government Owned Corporation Act 2001

Direction to Board of Power and Water Corporation, *Government Owned Corporations Act 2001*, dated 24 February 2025 (Paper 238)

Public Trustee Act 1979

Annual Report 2023-2024, Public Trustee for the Northern Territory, *Public Trustee Act 1979* (Paper 239)

Subordinate Legislation

Subordinate Legislation No. 1 of 2025, Liquor Amendment Regulations 2025 (Paper 240)

ATTENDANCE

All members attended the meeting.

RUSSELL KEITH
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly