Northern Territory of Australia
Legislative Assembly

Minutes of Proceedings

Meeting Number 14
Wednesday 19 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. **ATTORNEY-GENERAL LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025 (SERIAL 19)**
Ms Boothby (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend legislation administered by the Attorney-General, and tabled an Explanatory Statement (Paper 223).

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

Question put and passed.

Bill read a first time.

Ms Boothby moved that the Bill be referred to the Legislative Scrutiny Committee for report by Wednesday 30 April 2025.

Question put and passed.

3. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025 (SERIAL 20)**
Mr Edgington (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Development), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Local Government Act 2019* and the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, and tabled an Explanatory Statement (Paper 224).

Mr Edgington 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 Edgington moved that the Bill be referred to the Legislative Scrutiny Committee for report by Wednesday 30 April 2025.

Question put and passed.

4. PORTABLE LONG SERVICE LEAVE (COMMUNITY SERVICES SECTOR) REPEAL BILL 2025 (SERIAL 18)

Mrs Hersey (Minister for Early Education), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to repeal the *Portable Long Service Leave (Community Services Sector) Act 2024,* and tabled an Explanatory Statement (Paper 225).

Mrs Hersey 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 Hersey 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 20 May 2025.

K McNamara, Ms Uibo, Mr Edgington, J Davis.

Question, that the amendment 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			

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.

5. MINISTERIAL REPORT: ASIAN RELATIONS

Ms Cahill (Minister for Trade, Business and Asian Relations) delivered a report regarding Asian Relations and moved the report be noted.

Visitors: On behalf of all members, the Speaker welcomed young adults from YouthWorX NT accompanied by their leaders present in the gallery.

Ms Uibo, Mr O'Gallagher, Mr Howe, Mrs Carlson.

Debate interrupted.

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

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6. QUESTIONS

2.00 Ms Uibo to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.03 Mrs Zio to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.07 Mr Young to Mrs Hersey
2.11 Mr Patel to Mr Maley
2.15 Mr Paech to Ms Boothby
2.19 Mr O'Gallagher to Mr Burgoyne
2.23 J Davis to Mr Yan
2.27 Mrs Carlson to Mrs Hersey
2.31 Mr Brown to Mrs Hersey
2.35 Mr Brown to Mrs Hersey – Supplementary
2.36 Dr Rahman to Ms Cahill
2.40 K McNamara to Mr Burgoyne
2.43 Mr Kerle to Ms Boothby
2.47 Mr Brown to Mrs Hersey
2.51 Mr Mackay to Ms Cahill
2.55 J Davis to Ms Boothby
2.58 Mr Howe to Mr Edgington

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

7. MOTION: OBJECTIVES OF THE ABORIGINAL JUSTICE AGREEMENT

Mr Guyula, pursuant to notice, moved:

> That this Assembly recommit and affirm the objectives of the Aboriginal Justice Agreement, that by 2027 the NT Government will:
> 1. Reduce offending and imprisonment of Aboriginal Territorians.
> 2. Engage and support Aboriginal leadership.
> 3. Improve justice responses and services for Aboriginal Territorians.

Ms Boothby, Mr Paech, Mr Young, K McNamara, Mr Brown, J Davis, Mr Edgington, Ms Uibo.

Mr Guyula (leave granted to address the Assembly in Yolŋgu Matha) (in reply).

Question put and passed.

8. MOTION: WATER SECURITY IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Mr Paech, pursuant to notice, moved:

> That this 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.

It being 7.00 pm, debate interrupted.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

Dr Rahman, Mr O'Gallagher, Mrs Hersey, K McNamara, J Davis, Mrs Carlson, Mr Howe.

Question put and passed.

The Assembly adjourned at 7.44 pm until Thursday 20 March 2025 at 10.00 am.

ATTENDANCE

All members attended the meeting.



RUSSELL KEITH
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly