Northern Territory of Australia
Legislative Assembly

Minutes of Proceedings

Meeting Number 12
Thursday 13 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. POLICE ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025 (SERIAL 16)

Mrs Finocchiaro (Minister for Police), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Police Administration Act 1978*, the Police Administration Regulations 1994 and for related purposes, and tabled an Explanatory Statement (Paper 197).

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 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 by deleting all words after 'that' and inserting instead 'the Bill be referred to the Legislative Scrutiny Committee for report by the March sittings'.

Mrs Finocchiaro, K McNamara.

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.

3. DEFAMATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025 (SERIAL 13)

Ms Boothby (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Defamation Act 2006*, the *Limitation Act 1981* and the *Local Court (Criminal Procedure) Act 1928*, and tabled an Explanatory Statement (Paper 198).

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 12 March 2025.

Question put and passed.

4. EDUCATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025 (SERIAL 14)

Mrs Hersey (Minister for Education and Training), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Education Act 2015* and the Education Regulations 2015, and tabled an Explanatory Statement (Paper 201).

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.

J Davis moved the following amendment:

> That the motion be amended by deleting all the words after Education Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 and inserting instead "the bill be referred to the Legislative Scrutiny Committee".

Mr Paech, Mr Edgington.

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: UPDATE ON NT CORRECTIONS

Mr Maley (Minister for Corrections) delivered a report regarding an Update on NT Corrections and moved the report be noted.

On the motion of Mr Edgington the debate was adjourned.

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

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

Mr Maley (Minister for Corrections) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr Paech.

Debate interrupted.

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

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7. VISITOR

On behalf of all members, the Speaker welcomed Rufus McNamara, the Member for Nightcliff's son, present in the gallery.

8. NOTICES

The following notices were given:

1. K McNamara will move on the next General Business day:

   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.

2. K McNamara will move on the next General Business day:

That the NT Legislative Assembly:

- Recognises the rising costs of living pressures upon Territorians, particularly renters who often face housing insecurity.
- Acknowledges that renters in the NT face frequent and unreasonable rent increases.
- Urges the CLP Government to improve protections for renters under the *Residential Tenancies Act* by:
  - Introduce a two year rent freeze
  - Limit rental increases to 2% every 2 years after end of rent freeze
  - Establishing an independent bond board, minimum standards for rental premises, including energy efficiency and heating/cooling requirements
  - Abolish no-grounds evictions
  - Protect tenants against discrimination
  - Modernise the Act to reflect the realities of renting, including specific protections for renters living in sharehouses
  - Strengthen accountability for landlords obligations.

9. QUESTIONS

2.03 Ms Uibo to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.06 Mr Howe to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.10 Ms Uibo to Mrs Hersey
2.15 Dr Rahman to Mr Yan
2.18 Mr Paech to Mr Burgoyne
2.23 Mr Patel to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.27 Mr Brown to Mr Charls
2.28 Mr Kerle to Mr Maley
2.32 Mr Brown to Mrs Hersey
2.37 Mrs Carlson to Mr Edgington
2.40 J Davis to Ms Cahill
2.45 Mrs Zio to Ms Boothby
2.49 K McNamara to Mr Edgington
2.52 Mr O'Gallagher to Mr Charls
2.56 Mr Paech to Ms Cahill
3.00 Mr Mackay to Ms Boothby

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

Paper Tabled: The Speaker tabled: Investigation Report Operation Jupiter, Office of the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption NT pursuant to section 50(1) of the *Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act 2017*, February 2025 (Paper 213).

Mrs Finocchiaro, by leave, spoke to the report.

Paper Tabled: Mrs Finocchiaro tabled: Ministerial Staff Code of Conduct and Guidelines, Office of the Chief Minister, 13 February 2025 (Paper 214).

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

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

Mr Paech (continuation of remarks), Mr Patel, J Davis, Mr Edgington, K McNamara, Mr Yan, Ms Uibo, Mr Maley (in reply).

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

The Assembly considered the Bill in detail.

Clauses 1 to 11 stand as printed.

Remainder of the Bill stands as printed.

On the question that the Bill be agreed to, 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		

Question agreed to.

Mr Maley moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

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.

Bill read a third time.

11. 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 Howe, Mr O'Gallagher, Mr Paech, Mr Kerle, Mr Mackay, Ms Boothby.

Question put and passed.

12. MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE: 17TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL APOLOGY TO AUSTRALIA'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

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

> Recognising the 17th Anniversary of the National Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples and the ongoing impacts caused by the past mistreatment of members of the Stolen Generation in the Northern Territory.

Having received the necessary support, discussion ensued.

Mr Edgington, Mr Paech, Mrs Hersey, J Davis, Mr Young, K McNamara, Mr Brown, Mrs Zio, Dr Rahman.

Discussion concluded.

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

Mr Mackay, Mr Patel, Mr Young, Mr O'Gallagher, Dr Rahman, Ms Cahill, Mrs Hersey, Mrs Finocchiaro, Mrs Carlson, Mr Paech, Mr Kerle, Mr Charls, Ms Uibo, Mr Howe.

Question put and passed.

The Assembly adjourned at 10.48 pm until Tuesday 18 March 2025 at 10.00 am.

DEEMED PAPERS

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

Northern Territory Architects Act 1963

Annual Report 2023-2024, Northern Territory Architects Board, section 5 of the *Northern Territory Architects Act 1963* (Paper 209)

Assembly Members and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006

Northern Territory of Australia Remuneration Tribunal Report on Determination No. 1 of 2025, Determination of Allowances for Members of Local Councils (Paper 195)

Northern Territory of Australia Remuneration Tribunal Report on Determination No. 1 of 2025, Determination of Allowances for Members of Local Authorities (Paper 196)

Audit Act 1995

Strategic Review of the Northern Territory Auditor-General's Office 2024 (Paper 212)

AustralAsia Railway (Third Party Access) Act 1999

Annual Report 2023-2024, Essential Services Commission of South Australia, *AustralAsia Railway (Third Party Access) Act 1999* (Paper 200)

Darwin Waterfront Corporation Act 2006

Annual Report 2023-2024, Darwin Waterfront Corporation, section 30 of the *Darwin Waterfront Corporation Act 2006* (Paper 202)

Education and Care Services National Regulations

Annual Report 2023-2024, Education and Care Services Ombudsman and National Education and Care Services Freedom of Information & Privacy Commissioners (Paper 208)

Licensed Surveyors Act 1983

Annual Report 2023-2024, The Surveyors Board of the Northern Territory of Australia, *Licensed Surveyors Act 1983* (Paper 210)

Local Government Grants Commission Act 1986

Annual Report 2023-2024, Northern Territory Grants Commission, section 16 of the *Local Government Grants Commission Act 1986* (Paper 203)

National Trust (Northern Territory) Act 1976

Annual Report 2023-2024, National Trust of Australia Northern Territory, section 11 of the *National Trust (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Paper 204)

Plumbers and Drainers Licensing Act 1983

Annual Report, for the year ended 30 September 2024, Northern Territory Plumbers and Drainers Licensing Board, *Plumbers and Drainers Licensing Act 1983* (Paper 211)

Subordinate Legislation (National Law)

Subordinate Legislation, No. 143 of 2024, Education and Care Services National Amendment Regulations 2024, under the Education and Care Services National Law (Paper 206)

Subordinate Legislation, No. 144 of 2024, Education and Care Services National Further Amendment Regulations 2024, under the Education and Care Services National Law (Paper 207)

Subordinate Legislation, No. 658 of 2024, Education and Care Services National Amendment (Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2024, under the Education and Care Services National Law (Paper 205)

Superannuation Act 1986

Annual Report 2023-2024, The Commissioner of Superannuation, section 40 of the *Superannuation Act 1986* (Paper 199)

ATTENDANCE

All members attended the meeting.



RUSSELL KEITH
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly