Northern Territory of Australia
Legislative Assembly

Minutes of Proceedings

Meeting Number 48
Tuesday 17 March 2026

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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. MOTION: LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Pursuant to Standing Order 224, Mr Edgington moved that a leave of absence for today be granted to Mr Howe due to medical reasons.

Question put and passed.

3. PAPER TABLED

The Speaker announced the receipt from His Honour the Administrator of a commission to administer oaths and affirmations of allegiance and of office, dated 12 March 2026 (Paper 641).

4. VISITORS

On behalf of all members, the Speaker welcomed students and teachers from Galiwin'ku as part of their week at the Michael Long Learning and Leadership Centre; and students and teachers from Haileybury Rendall School present in the gallery.

The Speaker welcomed Electorate Officers participating in the Electorate Officer forum present in the gallery.

5. CONDOLENCE MOTION: TED EGAN

The Speaker informed the Assembly of the death of Mr Ted Egan, former Administrator of the Northern Territory.

The Speaker advised members of the presence in the Speaker's Gallery of family, friends and distinguished visitors.

Mrs Finocchiaro (Chief Minister) moved that this Assembly express its condolences at the passing of Mr Egan, and extend deepest sympathy to his family and friends, and place on the record our deep appreciation for his services to the Northern Territory.

Mrs Finocchiaro, Ms Uibo, Mr Yan, Mr Guyula, Mr Burgoyne, Mr Paech, Ms Cahill, J Davis, Mr O'Gallagher, Mr Brown, Mrs Lambley.

Question put and passed.

As a mark of respect Ms Sally Balfour sang two songs written by Mr Egan.

Suspension of Meeting: The meeting of the Assembly was suspended between 11.32 am and 2.00 pm.

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6. VISITORS

On behalf of all members, the Speaker welcomed Electorate Officers participating in the Electorate Officer forum present in the gallery.

7. NOTICES

The following notices were given:

1. Mrs Finocchiaro (Minister for Police) will present on the next meeting day a Bill titled Firearms Amendment Bill 2026 (Serial 61).
2. Mr Maley (Minister for Mining and Energy) will present on the next meeting day a Bill titled Mineral Titles Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 (Serial 56).
3. Mr Maley (Minister for Mining and Energy) will present on the next meeting day a Bill titled Pipelines and Petroleum Legislation Amendment (Industry Development) Bill 2026 (Serial 57).
4. Ms Boothby (Attorney-General) will present on the next meeting day a Bill titled Criminal Procedure Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 (Serial 58).
5. Ms Boothby (Attorney-General) will present on the next meeting day a Bill titled Liquor Legislation Amendment (Fast Track Approvals) Bill 2026 (Serial 62).
6. Ms Boothby (Minister for Racing) will present on the next meeting day a Bill titled Racing and Wagering Amendment Bill 2026 (Serial 59).
7. Mr Burgoyne (Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment) will present on the next meeting day a Bill titled Heritage Amendment Bill 2026 (Serial 60).
8. J Davis will move on the next General Business day:

   That this Assembly:

   1. Recognises that, as a unicameral parliament, the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly has a heightened responsibility to ensure transparent, accountable, and well-scrutinised law-making.
   2. Notes that effective scrutiny requires adequate information and sufficient time for Members and the public to consider legislation.
   3. Notes that in all other unicameral parliaments in Australia, all Bills are routinely referred to a relevant parliamentary committee for proper scrutiny, yet in the Fifteenth Assembly, the vast majority of Bills have bypassed this essential review.
   4. Calls for Standing Orders to be amended to align with minimum standard practice in other Australian unicameral parliaments to:
      a) Allow any Member to refer a Bill to the Legislative Scrutiny Committee; and
      b) Require all Bills to be accompanied by explanatory material outlining policy objectives, consultation undertaken, costs, and key economic, social and community impacts.
   5. Refers this matter to the Standing Orders Committee to examine options to strengthen legislative scrutiny and report back to the Assembly by 30 August 2026.

8. PETITIONS

Petition Numbers 21 and 22: Mr Kerle presented Petition Number 21 from 171 petitioners and Petition Number 22 from 245 petitioners calling for the Northern Territory Government to protect the wellbeing of all residents by addressing problem tenancies (Paper 642) (Paper 643).

Petitions read.

Mr Kerle moved that Petition Numbers 21 and 22 be referred to the Public Accounts Committee.

Question put and passed.

9. QUESTIONS

2.04 Ms Uibo to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.06 Mrs Zio to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.10 Mr Young to Mr Edgington
2.13 Mrs Carlson to Mr Maley
2.17 Ms Uibo to Mrs Finocchiaro, redirected to Ms Cahill
2.21 Mr O'Gallagher to Mr Edgington
2.25 Mr Brown to Mr Yan
2.29 Mr Patel to Mrs Hersey
2.33 Mr Paech to Mr Yan
2.37 Mr Paech to Mr Yan – Supplementary
2.39 Mrs Zio to Mr Yan
2.43 J Davis to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.44 Mr Kerle to Ms Cahill
2.48 Mr Brown to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.52 Dr Rahman to Mr Edgington
2.55 Mr Guyula to Mr Edgington
2.59 Mr Mackay to Mr Burgoyne

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

10. LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (CODE OF CONDUCT AND OTHER MATTERS) BILL 2026

Order of the day read for moving the second reading of the Local Government Legislation Amendment (Code of Conduct and Other Matters) Bill 2026.

Mr Edgington (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Development) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr Young, Mr Mackay, J Davis, Mr O'Gallagher, Mr Edgington (in reply).

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

The Assembly considered the Bill in detail.

Clause 1 stands as printed.

Clause 2.

Mr Young moved the following amendment:

Clause 2(3), line 22

omit

31 January 2028

insert

31 July 2026

Amendment not agreed to.

Clause 2 stands as printed.

Clauses 3 and 4 stand as printed.

Clause 5.

Mr Edgington moved the following amendment:

Clause 5(3), proposed subsection (3A)(b)(iii), line 24

omit

senior

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 5 stands as amended.

Clause 6.

Mr Edgington moved the following amendment:

Clause 6, proposed section 45(3)

omit, insert

(3) A member of a council must complete a training requirement determined under subsection (1):

(a) within 6 months after the date of the determination; or

(b) if the requirement was determined before the member became a member of the council or a member of the class to which the requirement applies – within 6 months after becoming a member of the council or of the class, as the case requires.

Examples for subsection (3)

1 If a training requirement is determined for all members on 1 January and a member is elected on 1 March, the member will have 6 months from election to complete that requirement.

2 If a training requirement is determined for principal members on 1 January and a member of a council is appointed as principal member on 1 March, the member will have 6 months from appointment to complete that requirement.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr Young moved the following amendment:

Clause 6, proposed section 45(5)(b), after "requirement", line 27

insert

for a period of no more than 6 months

Amendment not agreed to.

Mr Young moved the following amendment:

Clause 6, after proposed section 45(5)

insert

(6) Despite subsection (5)(a), an exemption under that subsection may only be made by the CEO of the Agency on the basis of prior completion of a similar training requirement if:

(a) all members of a council have undertaken the similar training requirement; and

(b) the exemption relates to all members of the council.

Amendment not agreed to.

Mr Young moved the following amendment:

Clause 6, after proposed section 45

insert

45A Failure to complete training requirement

(1) If a member of a council fails to complete a training requirement as required under section 45, the CEO of the Agency must issue the member with a notice that includes the following:

(a) a statement that the member has failed to complete a training requirement;

(b) the details of the training requirement, including the date by which the member was supposed to have completed the requirement;

(c) a statement that failure to complete the training requirement may be a contravention of the code of conduct and that a complaint may be made under Division 4 in relation to that contravention;

(d) a statement that the member must complete the training requirement within the period specified in the notice and that failure to do so may lead to a complaint being made under Division 4.

(2) A copy of a notice issued under subsection (1) must also be given to:

(a) the CEO of the council of which the member is a member; and

(b) the other members of the council.

Amendment not agreed to.

Clause 6 stands as amended.

Clauses 7 to 24 stand as printed.

Clause 25.

Mr Young moved the following amendment:

Clause 25, proposed section 119, definition *complainant*, line 13

omit

or 132B

Amendment not agreed to.

Mr Young moved the following amendment:

Clause 25, proposed section 121(6), after "misbehaviour", line 14

insert

, including a failure to identify or appropriately manage any conflict of interest that arises in the course of the person's work as an independent assessor

Amendment not agreed to.

Mr Young moved the following amendment:

Clause 25, proposed section 123(6), after "misbehaviour", line 17

insert

, including a failure to identify or appropriately manage any conflict of interest that arises in the course of the person's work as a member of a code of conduct panel

Amendment not agreed to.

Mr Young moved the following amendment:

Clause 25, proposed section 128

omit

Amendment not agreed to.

Mr Young moved the following amendment:

Clause 25, proposed section 131(3), after "the decision", line 23

insert

within 28 days of the decision

Amendment not agreed to.

Mr Edgington moved the following amendment:

Clause 25, proposed section 132A(2) and (3)

omit, insert

(2) A complaint to the CEO must:

(a) be in the approved form; and

(b) be accompanied by a statutory declaration made by the complainant verifying the information provided in the form.

(3) The CEO must refer a complaint that meets the requirements of subsection (2):

(a) to the council for consideration under section 132E; or

(b) if the CEO considers the alleged misconduct would be more appropriately investigated and resolved by an independent assessor – to an independent assessor.

(4) If the CEO decides to refer a complaint to an independent assessor under subsection (3)(b), the CEO must, within 5 days of making the decision:

(a) notify the secretariat; and

(b) give the secretariat all relevant materials related to the complaint.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr Edgington moved the following amendment:

Clause 25, proposed section 132B(2) and (3)

omit, insert

(2) A complaint to the secretariat must:

(a) be in the approved form; and

(b) be accompanied by a statutory declaration made by the complainant verifying the information provided in the form.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr Edgington moved the following amendment:

Clause 25, proposed section 132B(4), line 25

omit

must refer a complaint received under this section

insert

must, within 5 days after receiving a complaint that meets the requirements of subsection (2), refer the complaint

Amendment agreed to.

Mr Young moved the following amendment:

Clause 25, proposed section 132D(2)(b)

omit, insert

(b) given to the CEO.

Amendment not agreed to.

Mr Edgington moved the following amendment:

Clause 25, proposed section 132E(2)(b)(ii), line 30

omit

procedures.

insert

procedures; or

Amendment agreed to.

Mr Edgington moved the following amendment:

Clause 25, after proposed section 132E(2)(b)

insert

(c) the complaint is frivolous or vexatious.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr Edgington moved the following amendment:

Clause 25, proposed section 132E(3), (4) and (5)

omit, insert

(3) The council:

(a) must refer a complaint to an independent assessor if the council determines that the alleged misconduct would be more appropriately investigated and resolved by an independent assessor; and

(b) may refer a complaint to an independent assessor if it appears to the council to be frivolous or vexatious.

(4) If the council decides to refer a complaint to an independent assessor under subsection (3), the CEO must, within 5 days of the decision:

(a) notify the secretariat; and

(b) give the secretariat all relevant materials related to the complaint.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr Edgington moved the following amendment:

Clause 25, proposed section 132G(4), line 24

omit

refers a complaint to an independent assessor under this section, the CEO must:

insert

decides to refer a complaint to an independent assessor under subsection (1)(f), the CEO must, within 5 days of the decision:

Amendment agreed to.

Mr Edgington moved the following amendment:

Clause 25, proposed section 132H(1), after "complaint under", line 5

insert

section 132A(3)(b) or

Amendment agreed to.

Mr Edgington moved the following amendment:

Clause 25, proposed section 132H(1)(b)(ii), line 12

omit

Division 5 – the relevant materials provided by the CEO under section

insert

section 132A(3)(b) or Division 5 – the relevant materials provided by the CEO under section 132A(4),

Amendment agreed to.

Mr Young moved the following amendment:

Clause 25, proposed section 132J(3)(a)

omit

Amendment not agreed to.

Mr Young moved the following amendment:

Clause 25, proposed section 132L(1)

omit, insert

(1) If the secretariat receives notice of a referral of a complaint under section 132J(4) that requires a code of conduct panel, the secretariat must, within 5 days of receiving the notice of referral:

(a) establish a code of conduct panel to deal with the complaint; and

(b) provide the panel with the relevant materials provided to the secretariat under that section.

Amendment not agreed to.

Mr Edgington moved the following amendment:

Clause 25, proposed section 132J(3)(b), line 1

omit

by a council under section 132E(3) or 132G(1)(f) – refer the complaint back to

insert

to an independent assessor under section 132A(3)(b), 132E(3) or 132G(1)(f) – refer the complaint back to the relevant

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 25 stands as amended.

Clause 26 stands as printed.

Clause 27.

Mr Young moved the following amendment:

Clause 27, after proposed section 216A(1)

insert

(1A) To be eligible to be appointed as a governance adviser, a person must be:

(a) a legal practitioner with at least 5 years' experience as a legal practitioner; or

(b) a person with at least 5 years' experience in governance or public administration.

Amendment not agreed to.

Clause 27 stands as printed.

Clauses 28 and 29 stand as printed.

Clause 30.

Mr Young moved the following amendment:

Clause 30, after proposed section 317A(2)

insert

(2A) To be eligible to be appointed as a governance controller, a person must be:

(a) a legal practitioner with at least 5 years' experience as a legal practitioner; or

(b) a person with at least 5 years' experience in governance or public administration.

Amendment not agreed to.

Clause 30 stands as printed.

Clauses 31 to 37 stand as printed.

Clause 38.

Mr Edgington moved the following amendment:

Clause 38, proposed Schedule 1A, clause 5(c), after "read", line 29

insert

or be briefed on

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 38 stands as amended.

Clauses 39 and 40 stand as printed.

Clause 41.

Mr Young moved the following amendment:

Clause 41, proposed section 109A(1)

omit

Amendment not agreed to.

Mr Young moved the following amendment:

Clause 41, proposed section 109A(2), line 3

omit

if the council has passed a resolution under subsection (1)

Amendment not agreed to.

Clause 41 stands as printed.

Clause 42.

On the question that Clause 42 stand as printed, the Assembly divided:

Ayes 16

Ms Boothby	Mr Burgoyne	Ms Cahill	Mrs Carlson
Mr Charls	Mr Edgington	Mrs Finocchiaro	Mrs Hersey
Mr Kerle	Mr Mackay	Mr Maley	Mr O'Gallagher
Mr Patel	Dr Rahman	Mr Yan	Mrs Zio

Noes 6

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

Question agreed to.

Remainder of the Bill stands as printed.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

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

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time.

11. PAPER TABLED

The Speaker advised that the Government Response to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee Report, Voluntary Assisted Dying in the Northern Territory - Final Report from the Hon. Marie-Clare Boothby MLA, was deemed tabled on 16 March 2026 pursuant to Standing Order 201 (Paper 640).

12. MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE: WORKING TOGETHER TO BETTER PREPARE FOR NATURAL DISASTERS:

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

Working together to better prepare for natural disasters.

Having received the necessary support, discussion ensued.

Mrs Hersey, Mr Paech, Mr Yan, J Davis, Ms Cahill, Mr Brown, Mr Edgington, Mr Young.

Discussion concluded.

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

Mr Charls, Mr Paech, Dr Rahman, Mr Yan.

Question put and passed.

The Assembly adjourned at 8.30 pm until Wednesday 18 March 2026 at 10.00 am.

ATTENDANCE
All members attended the meeting, except Mr Howe on leave.



RUSSELL KEITH
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly