Northern Territory of Australia
Legislative Assembly

Minutes of Proceedings

Meeting Number 65
Wednesday 14 October 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. SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

The Speaker advised members of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

3. MOTIONS: LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Pursuant to Standing Order 224, Mr Edgington moved that a leave of absence be granted to Mr Burgoyne for today and tomorrow as he is assisting with efforts in Alice Springs after the severe weather event.

Question put and passed.

Pursuant to Standing Order 224, Mr Brown moved that a leave of absence be granted to Mr Paech for today and tomorrow as he has returned to Alice Springs due to the severe weather event.

Question put and passed.

4. WEAPONS CONTROL LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (LEGALISING CONTROLLED OC SPRAY) BILL 2026 (SERIAL 80)

Mrs Finocchiaro (Minister for Police), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Weapons Control Act 2001* and the Weapons Control Regulations 2001 and for related purposes, and tabled an Explanatory Statement (Paper 833).

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.

5. MINISTERIAL REPORT: BEETALOO GAS

Mr Maley (Deputy Chief Minister) delivered a report regarding Beetaloo Gas and moved the report be noted.

Paper tabled: Mr Maley tabled: Nightcliff by-election pledge 2026, a pledge to protect the Territory's water and climate (Paper 834).

Ms Uibo, Mr Yan, Mr Howe, Ms Cahill, Mr Edgington, Mr Mackay, Mr Kerle, Mr O'Gallagher.

Question put and passed.

6. LIQUOR AMENDMENT BILL 2026 (SERIAL 71)

Order of the day read for moving the second reading of the Liquor Amendment Bill 2026 (Serial 71).

Ms Boothby (Minister for Tourism and Hospitality) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr Smelt.

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

   This Assembly calls on the NT Government to prevent harm caused by poker machines by:
   - maintaining the cap of 1,659 machines and legislating a schedule for its reduction;
   - requiring cashless play with binding loss limits;
   - removing autoplay, inducements and ATM access from gaming areas;
   - establishing a Territory-wide self-exclusion scheme;
   - requiring public reporting of machine numbers, losses and the effectiveness of harm-minimisation measures; and
   - replacing the current Community Benefit Fund arrangements with a 10% levy on all venues with gaming machines, so that community and sport funding does not depend on gambling losses.

2. Ms Uibo will move on the next General Business day that:

   The Assembly calls on the CLP Government to:
   - Accelerate the 2,700-home remote housing program, improve repairs and maintenance, and invest in homelands and government employee housing in remote communities.

3. Mr Smelt will move on the next General Business day that:

   The Assembly calls on the CLP Government to:
   - Establish a dedicated Housing Construction Authority to coordinate land release, streamline approvals, facilitate investment and accelerate affordable housing construction across the Territory.

4. Ms Uibo will move on the next General Business day that:

   The Assembly calls on the CLP Government to:
   - Develop a housing construction industry strategy addressing workforce shortages, rising construction costs, supply chain pressures and long-term housing development pipeline certainty.

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5. Mr Smelt will move on the next General Business day that:

The Assembly calls on the CLP Government to:

- Develop a comprehensive housing strategy addressing the entire housing continuum, from crisis accommodation and social housing to affordable rentals and home ownership.

8. MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Mr Edgington (Leader of Government Business) informed the Assembly of the absence of Mr Burgoyne and asked that all questions relating to the Minister's portfolios be directed to Mr Yan.

9. PETITION

Petition Number 31: Mr Young presented Petition Number 31 from 137 petitioners, not conforming with Standing Orders, regarding the proposed relocation of YiSSA services to Batchelor (Paper 835).

Petition read.

Mr Young moved that Petition Number 31 be referred to the Public Accounts Committee.

Question put and passed.

10. QUESTIONS

2.03 Ms Uibo to Mr Edgington
2.07 Mrs Zio to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.11 Mr Smelt to Mr Edgington
2.15 Mr Mackay to Mr Maley
2.19 Mr Brown to Mr Edgington, redirected to Mr Yan
2.22 Mrs Carlson to Mr Yan
2.25 Ms Uibo to Mrs Hersey
2.26 Mr Kerle to Ms Boothby

Visitors: On behalf of all members, the Speaker welcomed Mr Patrick Bedford, the Chairperson of Tourism Central Australia; Mr Danial Rochford, Deputy Mayor of Alice Springs; and Ms Samara Laverty present in the gallery.

2.30 J Davis to Mr Maley

Visitors: On behalf of all members, the Speaker welcomed Reverend Viliami Mila, Minister of Casuarina Uniting Church, present in the gallery.

2.35 Mr Young to Ms Boothby
2.38 Dr Rahman to Mrs Hersey
2.42 Mr McGrath to Mr Edgington
2.46 Mr Howe to Ms Cahill
2.50 Ms Uibo to Mrs Hersey
2.53 Ms Uibo to Mrs Hersey – Supplementary
2.54 Mr O'Gallagher to Mr Yan
2.58 Mr Young to Ms Cahill
2.59 Mr Patel to Mr Edgington

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

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11. RACING AND WAGERING AMENDMENT (HARM PREVENTION) BILL 2026 (SERIAL 79)

J Davis, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Racing and Wagering Act 2024*, and tabled an Explanatory Statement (Paper 836).

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

Question put and passed.

Bill read a first time.

J Davis moved that the Bill be referred to the Legislative Scrutiny Committee for report by 1 February 2027.

Question, that the Bill be referred to the Legislative Scrutiny Committee for report by 1 February 2027, put and the Assembly divided:

Ayes 6

Mr Brown	J Davis	Mr McGrath	Mr Smelt
Ms Uibo	Mr Young		

Noes 16

Ms Boothby	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

Motion negatived.

12. MOTION: MORATORIUM ON AI DATA CENTRES PENDING PUBLIC INQUIRY

J Davis, pursuant to notice, moved:

> That the Assembly:
> Calls on the Northern Territory Government to implement a moratorium on all AI data centre developments in the Territory until a public inquiry, established under the *Inquiries Act 1945*, has properly assessed their impacts on electricity prices, water security, emissions and land use.

Ms Cahill moved that the motion be amended by omitting all words after 'Assembly' and inserting:

1. Acknowledges that the Northern Territory is a signatory to the national framework on mandatory AI and Data Centre standards;
2. Recognises that these standards include national consistency on water, planning and national data security and sovereignty;
3. Notes that these standards will ensure that AI Data Centre growth will be in line with community expectations; and
4. Commends the Finocchiaro CLP Government on its constructive, nationally-consistent approach to this growth industry, in contrast with other approaches that would simply spread fear and misinformation.

Ms Uibo moved that the amendment be amended by omitting all words after 'inserting' and inserting:

> Call on the CLP Government to:
> 1. Implement a moratorium on hyperscale data centre developments in the Northern Territory until 1 July 2027;
> 2. Commission an independent review into hyperscale data centre developments across the Northern Territory, including their economic, social, environmental and strategic impacts, use of Territory resources and long-term benefits to Territorians;

3. Ensure the independent review includes public hearings in all major centres across the Northern Territory, including the Darwin rural area, to provide Territorians, affected communities, industry representatives and other stakeholders with an opportunity to raise concerns, provide evidence and contribute to the review; and
4. Publicly release the findings and recommendations of the review before the moratorium expires.

Paper tabled: Ms Uibo, by leave, tabled: Notice of Decision and Statement of Reasons for Project Ares, a Hyperscale Data Centre Campus Located on Murranji Station, by the NT EPA (Paper 837).

Ms Cahill moved that the question be put.

Question, that the question be put, put and the Assembly divided:

Ayes 16

Ms Boothby	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	Mr McGrath	Mr Smelt
Ms Uibo	Mr Young		

Motion passed.

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

Ayes 6

Mr Brown	J Davis	Mr McGrath	Mr Smelt
Ms Uibo	Mr Young		

Noes 16

Ms Boothby	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 to the amendment not agreed to.

Mr Young, Mr Yan.

Mr Yan moved that the question be put.

Question, that the question be put, put and passed.

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

Ayes 15

Ms Boothby	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	Mr McGrath	Mr Smelt
Ms Uibo	Mr Young		

Motion passed.

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Mr Yan moved that the question be put.

Question, that the question be put, put and passed.

Motion, as amended, put and passed.

13. MOTION: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Ms Uibo, pursuant to notice, moved a motion:

Calling on the Assembly to:

- Recognise the importance of ensuring the Northern Territory is prepared and adequately resourced for emergencies during the current El Nino weather event and the heightened risk of extreme conditions; and
- ensure appropriate preparedness and response measures are in place, particularly given the upcoming and likely severe bushfire season, exacerbated by the proliferation of buffel and gamba grass; and
- ensure appropriate support for pastoralists and landholders in preparing for upcoming severe weather events, as well as alert, evacuation and emergency shelter arrangements are in place for remote and regional communities.

Paper tabled: Ms Uibo, by leave, tabled: Correspondence address to Minister Hersey, Arnhem Electorate response regarding Flood Recovery Fund $100 M from Member for Arnhem, Selena Uibo, dated 2 April 2026 (Paper 838).

Mrs Finocchiaro, Mr Young.

It being 7.00 pm, debate interrupted.

14. ANSWER TO QUESTION ASKED ON THE SAME DAY

Ms Cahill (Minister for Children and Families) gave a supplementary answer to a question asked during Question Time by Mr Young.

15. ADJOURNMENT

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

Mrs Finocchiaro, Ms Uibo, Mr Maley, Mrs Zio, Mr Mackay.

As a mark of respect for the death of Mr Leo Izod, Members stood in silence for

one minute.

Paper tabled: Mr Mackay, by leave, tabled: Eulogy, Mr Leo Izod, date 19 August 2026 (Paper 839).

Paper tabled: Mrs Zio, by leave, tabled: Images, Leo Izod (Paper 840).

Dr Rahman.

Question put and passed.

The Assembly adjourned at 7.45 pm until Thursday 15 October 2026 at 10.00 am.

DEEMED PAPER

Pursuant to Standing Order 239 the following paper was deemed tabled:

Subordinate Legislation

Subordinate Legislation No. 23 of 2026, Competition Policy Reform (Northern Territory) Regulations 2026 (Paper 832)

ATTENDANCE
All members attended the meeting, except Mr Burgoyne and Mr Paech on leave.

RUSSELL KEITH
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

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