Northern Territory of Australia
Legislative Assembly

Minutes of Proceedings

Meeting Number 29
Thursday 31 July 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 a community group from U3A Darwin present in the gallery.

3. **YOUTH JUSTICE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025 (SERIAL 31)**
Order of the day read for moving the second reading of the Youth Justice Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 (Serial 31).

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

Ms Uibo, Ms Boothby, Mr Guyula.

Visitors: On behalf of all members, the Speaker welcomed a community group from National Seniors Australia—Top End (Darwin) Branch present in the gallery.

Mrs Hersey, Mr Kerle.

Debate interrupted.

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

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4. **SPEAKER'S STATEMENT**
The Speaker advised of the retirement of Eva Eustace, a long-serving staff member of the Department of the Legislative Assembly.

5. NOTICES

The following notices were given:

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

   That the NT Legislative Assembly:

   1. Recognises that the Northern Territory is one of only two Australian jurisdictions without a Chief Scientist or equivalent advisory role.
   2. Notes that Chief Scientists in other jurisdictions have delivered significant benefits including:
      - Attracting research investment and infrastructure to build scientific capacity.
      - Facilitating partnerships between academia, government and industry
      - Providing independent advice on complex challenges including natural disasters, energy transitions, and emerging technologies.
      - Supporting technology commercialisation and innovation programs that drive economic growth.
      - Enhancing the jurisdiction's reputation as a science and technology leader.
   3. Calls on the CLP Government to establish a Northern Territory Chief Scientist position that would:
      - Provide independent, evidence-based advice to government on science, technology, engineering and innovation matters.
      - Attract Commonwealth and industry investment in Northern Territory science and research.
      - Facilitate collaboration between Territory research institutions, industry and government.
      - Advocate for the importance of STEM education and science engagement across the community.
      - Represent the Territory on national science forums and advisory bodies.
      - Provide expert advice on environmental, energy, and technological challenges facing the Territory.

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

   That this Assembly:

   - Recognises the serious health and economic impacts of air pollution in the Northern Territory.
   - Notes that Darwin now has the worst air quality in Australia, costing over $100 million annually.
   - Calls on the NT Government to develop and implement a Clean Air Act within two years, with enforceable standards, real-time monitoring, and community involvement.

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

   That this Assembly:

   1. Acknowledge the impact of the cessation of mining in both Jabiru and the Gove Peninsula, their local communities, businesses, government services and broader regions.
   2. Recognise the need for ongoing Government investment to ensure a strong and sustainable future for both Jabiru and the Gove Peninsula, helping the transition from mining towns to vibrant and sustainable regional services hubs that support thriving communities and diverse economies.

4. Mr Brown will move on the next General Business day:

That this Assembly:

- Acknowledge the importance of improving access to timely, quality and culturally safe patient focused health care across remote areas in the Northern Territory; and
- Condemn the Finocchiaro CLP Government for scrapping the $20 million health centre and morgue designated for the Gunbalanya community.

6. QUESTIONS

2.03 Ms Uibo to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.08 Mr Patel to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.11 Mr Young to Mr Yan
2.15 Mrs Carlson to Mr Yan
2.19 Mr Paech to Ms Cahill
2.23 Mr Paech to Ms Cahill – Supplementary
2.25 Mr Kerle to Ms Cahill
2.29 Ms Uibo to Mr Edgington
2.32 Mr Mackay to Mr Burgoyne
2.36 J Davis to Mr Maley
2.40 Mrs Zio to Ms Boothby
2.44 Mr Brown to Mr Edgington
2.48 Mr O'Gallagher to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.51 Mr Guyula to Mr Edgington
2.54 Mr Kerle to Mr Maley
2.58 K McNamara to Mrs Finocchiaro
3.02 Dr Rahman to Mr Charls

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

7. YOUTH JUSTICE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025 (SERIAL 31)

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

Mr Kerle (continuation of remarks), Ms Cahill, K McNamara, J Davis.

Paper Tabled: J Davis, by leave, tabled: Letter addressed to the Chief Minister, Lia Finocchiaro, concerning safeguarding the wellbeing and health of children, dated 28 July 2025, from Dr Catherine Boyd on behalf of Northern Territory Paediatricians (Paper 354).

Mrs Finocchiaro, Mrs Zio, Mr Young, Mr O'Gallagher, Mr Paech, Mr Mackay, Mr Maley (in reply).

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

The Assembly considered the Bill in detail.

Clauses 1 to 38 stand as printed.

Remainder of the Bill stands as printed.

On the question that the Bill agreed to, 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 7

Mr Brown	J Davis	Mr Guyula	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 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 7

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

Motion passed.

Bill read a third time

8. DEFAMATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025 (SERIAL 13)

Order of the day read for moving the second reading of the Defamation Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 (Serial 13).

Ms Boothby (Attorney-General) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr Paech, Dr Rahman.

Mr Paech moved that the question be put.

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

Ms Boothby (in reply).

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

Ms Boothby, by leave, moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time.

9. PAPERS TABLED

Mrs Zio (Deputy Chair of the Public Accounts Committee), by leave, tabled: Report, Inquiry into the Darwin Waterfront Corporation, Public Accounts Committee, dated July 2025 (Paper 355) and Associated Minutes of Proceedings (Paper 356) and made a statement.

Mrs Zio moved that the report be noted.

On the motion of Mr Edgington the debate was adjourned.

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

Mr Maley, Mrs Hersey, Mrs Finocchiaro, Mr O'Gallagher.

Paper Tabled: Mr O'Gallagher, by leave, tabled: Newsletter, Karama News, Issue 3, July 2025, Electorate Newsletter, Mr Brian O'Gallagher (Paper 357).

Exclusion from Chamber: The Speaker ordered Mr Young to leave the Chamber for one hour pursuant to Standing Order 49.

K McNamara, Ms Boothby, Mr Mackay, Ms Cahill, Dr Rahman, Mr Kerle, Mr Patel, J Davis, Mr Paech.

Paper Tabled: Mr Paech, by leave, tabled: Better and Fairer Schools Agreement 2025-2034 (Paper 358).

Mrs Zio, Ms Uibo, Mr Edgington.

Question put and passed.

The Assembly adjourned at 9.56 pm until Tuesday 2 September 2025 at 10.00 am.

DEEMED PAPERS

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

Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education Act 1991

Annual Report 2024, Batchelor Institute, *Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education Act 1991* (Paper 351)

Charles Darwin Education Act 2003

Annual Report 2024, Charles Darwin University and Audit of the Charles Darwin University Financial Report, Northern Territory Auditor-General, for the year ended 31 December 2024, *Charles Darwin Education Act 2003* (Paper 352)

Cobourg Peninsula Aboriginal Land, Sanctuary and Marine Park Act 1981

Annual Report 2022-2023, Cobourg Peninsula Sanctuary and Marine Park Board, *Cobourg Peninsula Aboriginal Land, Sanctuary and Marine Park Act 1981* (Paper 349)

Annual Report 2023-2024, Cobourg Peninsula Sanctuary and Marine Park Board, *Cobourg Peninsula Aboriginal Land, Sanctuary and Marine Park Act 1981* (Paper 350)

Coroners Act 1993

Report to the Legislative Assembly, In the matter of Coroner's Findings and Recommendations regarding the Death of Pukumani, pursuant to *Coroners Act 1993,* section 46B (Paper 337)

Report to the Legislative Assembly, In the matter of Coroner's Findings and Recommendations regarding the Death of Lucinda Tipungwuti, pursuant to *Coroners Act 1993,* section 46B (Paper 338)

Report to the Legislative Assembly, In the matter of Coroner's Findings and Recommendations regarding the Death of Trudy Nicky, pursuant to *Coroners Act 1993,* section 46B (Paper 339)

Report to the Legislative Assembly, In the matter of Coroner's Findings and Recommendations regarding the Death of Lucy Jinjair, pursuant to *Coroners Act 1993,* section 46B (Paper 340)

Report to the Legislative Assembly, In the matter of Coroner's Findings and Recommendations regarding the Death of Mr Mati Tamwoy, pursuant to *Coroners Act 1993*, section 46B (Paper 341)

Northern Territory Professional Standards Act 2004

The Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand Professional Standards Scheme, *Professional Standards Act 1994* (NSW) (Paper 345)

The New South Wales Bar Association Professional Standards Scheme, *Professional Standards Act 1994* (NSW) (Paper 346)

The Victorian Bar Professional Standards Scheme, *Professional Standards Act 2003* (VIC) (Paper 347)

The Western Australian Bar Association Professional Standards Scheme, *Professional Standards Act 1997* (WA) (Paper 348)

Subordinate Legislation

Subordinate Legislation No. 3 of 2025, Supreme Court Amendment (Interpreters) Rules 2025 (Paper 342)

Subordinate Legislation No. 5 of 2025, Supreme Court Amendment (Civil Procedure) Rules 2025 (Paper 343)

Subordinate Legislation No. 7 of 2025, Penalty Units Amendment Regulations 2025 (Paper 344)

Subordinate Legislation (National Law)

Subordinate Legislation No. 273 of 2025 (National Law), Education and Care Services National Amendment Regulations 2025 (Paper 353)

ATTENDANCE

All members attended the meeting, except Mr Howe.

RUSSELL KEITH
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly