NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting Number 48
Wednesday 14 March 2018

1. **MEETING**
The Assembly met at 10.00. The Speaker, the Honourable Kezia Purick, presided.

2. **PRAYERS**

3. **ACKNOWLEGDEMENT OF COUNTRY**
Ms Lawler delivered the acknowledgement of country on behalf of the Assembly.

4. **MOTION: LEAVE OF ABSENCE AGREED TO**
Ms Fyles moved that a leave of absence for today be granted to Mr Costa due to illness.

Motion agreed to.

5. **VISITORS**
The Speaker advised Honourable Members of the presence in the gallery of Stage 1 Legal Studies students from Darwin High School accompanied by their teacher, Kira Goodsell.

On behalf of all Members the Speaker welcomed the visitors.

6. **MINISTERIAL POLICY STATEMENT: TOURISM IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY MOTION TO NOTE**
Resumption of debate on the question that the Assembly take note of the Policy Statement.

Mr Gunner.

Visitors: The Speaker advised Honourable Members of the presence in the gallery of Year 3/4 Students from Humpty Doo Primary accompanied by their teachers, Pamela Bright, Anna Silcock, Melissa Tipo, Shae-Lee Bakker, Liz Togni and Sara Simon.

On behalf of all Members the Speaker welcomed the visitors.

Ms Wakefield, Mrs Lambley, Mrs Worden.

Visitors: The Speaker advised Honourable Members of the presence in the gallery of Year 5/6 Students from Alawa Primary School accompanied by their teachers, Athena Hammond, Matt Lotherington and Jo Neal.

On behalf of all Members the Speaker welcomed the visitors.

Mr Wood.

Debate suspended.

Suspension of Meeting: The meeting of the Assembly was suspended between 12.00 and 14.00.

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7. QUESTIONS

14.00 Mr Higgins to Mr Gunner
14.03 Mrs Finocchiaro to Ms Wakefield
14.07 Mrs Finocchiaro to Ms Wakefield – Supplementary
14.08 Mrs Finocchiaro to Ms Fyles
14.12 Mr Higgins to Ms Wakefield
14.16 Mr Higgins to Mr McCarthy
14.19 Mrs Finocchiaro to Ms Fyles
14.23 Mr Guyula to Mr Gunner

Visitor: The Speaker advised Honourable Members of the presence in the gallery of the former Speaker of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly, the Honourable Jane Aagaard.

On behalf of all Members the Speaker welcomed the visitor.

14.26 Mrs Lambley to Ms Wakefield
14.30 Mr Mills to Mr Gunner
14.34 Mr Guyula to Ms Fyles
14.36 Mr Wood to Mr Gunner
14.40 Mr Wood to Ms Manison
14.43 Mrs Lambley to Mr Gunner
14.47 Mr Higgins to Ms Wakefield
14.49 Mr Higgins to Mr McCarthy
14.53 Mrs Lambley to Ms Fyles
14.56 Mrs Finocchiaro to Ms Wakefield
14.59 Mr Wood to Ms Moss

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

8. MOTION: INQUIRY INTO THE NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE FORCE NOT AGREED TO

Mrs Lambley, pursuant to notice, moved:

That the NT Parliament, through the Public Accounts Committee, undertakes a broad inquiry into the current status of the NT Police Service including current staffing levels;

current challenges in the recruitment and retention of staff; the allocation of staff; Police communications; the roles and responsibilities of Police; Police resourcing; and the current risks and demands of the job.

The purpose of this Parliamentary inquiry is to create transparency and greater public awareness of the specific circumstances and challenges currently within the NT Police Service.

Paper Tabled: Mrs Lambley, by leave, tabled a paper on Staffing – NTPFES Annual Reports 2014/15, 2015/16 & 2016/17 (Paper 669).

Mr Gunner, Mrs Lambley.

Question put.

The Assembly divided:

Ayes 6	**Noes 15**
Mrs Finocchiaro	Ms Ah Kit
Mr Higgins	Mr Collins
Mrs Lambley	Ms Fyles
Mr Mills	Mr Gunner
Ms Purick	Mr Kirby
Mr Wood	Ms Lawler
	Ms Manison
	Mr McCarthy
	Mr McConnell
	Ms Moss
	Mr Paech
	Mr Sievers
	Ms Wakefield
	Mrs Worden
	Ms Uibo

Motion not agreed to.

9. MOTION: CHILD PROTECTION AS AMENDED AGREED TO

Mrs Finocchiaro (Deputy Leader of the Opposition), pursuant to notice, moved:

That the Assembly:

- expresses its deep concern at the state of child protection in the Northern Territory and condemns the Government for both its failure to prevent harm to children, and its haphazard response to the ongoing crisis in child protection; and
- implores the Government to place the safety of every child in the Northern Territory at the core of all of its decision making irrespective of cultural beliefs.

Ms Wakefield.

Ms Wakefield moved the following amendment:

Remove all words after 'That this Assembly:" and replace with:

- expresses its deep concern at the challenges facing child protection in the Northern Territory;
- recognises that success will involve supporting families earlier, and close collaboration between the community and governments; and
- agrees to bipartisan support for the planned reforms to Child Protection and the implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children.

Mr Paech.

Visitors: The Acting Deputy Speaker advised Honourable Members of the presence in the gallery of One Mob Unions NT delegates.

On behalf of all Members the Acting Deputy Speaker welcomed the visitors.

Mr Higgins.

Mr Higgins moved the following amendment to the amendment:

That the words "planned reforms to child protection and the" be deleted.

Mr Guyula, Mr Wood.

Visitors: The Deputy Speaker advised Honourable Members of the presence in the gallery of the 1st Berrimah Venturer Scout Unit.

On behalf of all Members the Deputy Speaker welcomed the visitors.

Mr Mills, Ms Ah Kit, Mrs Finocchiaro.

Question, that the Amendment be agreed to, put and passed.

Question, that the Amendment to the Amendment be agreed to, put and passed.

Question, that the motion as amended be agreed to, put and passed.

10. MOTION TO NOTE: PAPER TABLED AGREED TO

Ms Fyles (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice), tabled a paper and made a statement and moved that it be noted:

1. *Government Gazette, S17, Liquor Act*, Determination of Additional Conditions of Certain Licences, dated 13 March 2018 (paper 670).

Question put and passed.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Ms Fyles (Leader of Government Business) moved that the Assembly adjourn.

Ms Fyles, Mrs Finocchiaro, Ms Lawler, Mr McCarthy, Mr Wood, Ms Nelson, Ms Manison, Ms Uibo, Mr Kirby.

The Assembly adjourned at 20.18 until Thursday 15 March 2018 at 10.00.

DEEMED PAPERS

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

***Police Administration Act*:**
Northern Territory Police Force Consent Agreement 2017 (Paper 667).

Utilities Commission:
Letter, to Honourable Nicole Manison MLA, from Dr Patrick Walsh, Utilities Commissioner, regarding Report on material instances of non-compliance with the Port Access Policy and Determinations, dated 25 October 2017 (Paper 668).

ATTENDANCE
All Members attended the meeting, except Mr Costa and Mr Vowles on leave.

MICHAEL TATHAM
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly