Northern Territory of Australia
Legislative Assembly

Minutes of Proceedings

Meeting Number 45
Tuesday 10 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 Mrs Hersey due to medical issues and the ongoing emergency in Katherine.

Question put and passed.

3. MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Speaker advised members of the following message from His Honour the Honourable Chief Justice Michael Grant AO, Acting Administrator of the Northern Territory (Paper 608).

Message Number 13

Assent to Proposed Laws

I, MICHAEL GRANT AO, the Acting Administrator of the Northern Territory of Australia, advise the Legislative Assembly, pursuant to section 7 of the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978* of the Commonwealth, of the assent to the following proposed laws:

9 February 2026

Care and Protection of Children Amendment (Worker Screening) Act 2026 (Act No. 1 of 2026)

Trade, Business and Asian Relations Legislation Amendment (Streamlining Licensing Schemes and Other Matters) Act 2026 (Act No. 2 of 2026)

Statute Law Revision and Repeals Act 2026 (Act No. 3 of 2026)

Housing Amendment Act 2026 (Act No. 4 of 2026)

Dated 18 February 2026.

4. SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

The Speaker advised of the receipt of His Majesty's Commonwealth Day Message for 2026 forwarded by the Office of the Administrator and tabled the Message (Paper 609).

5. REPORT FROM THE LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Mrs Carlson (Chair of the Legislative Scrutiny Committee) tabled the Report, Inquiry into the Sentencing Amendment (Murder) Bill 2026, Legislative Scrutiny Committee, March 2026 (Paper 610) and Associated Minutes of Proceedings (Paper 611) and made a statement.

6. REPORT FROM THE LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Mrs Carlson (Chair of the Legislative Scrutiny Committee) tabled the Report, Inquiry into the Electrical Safety Amendment Bill 2026, Legislative Scrutiny Committee, February 2026 (Paper 612) and Associated Minutes of Proceedings (Paper 613) and made a statement.

7. REPORT FROM THE LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Mrs Carlson (Chair of the Legislative Scrutiny Committee) tabled the Report, Inquiry into the Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport Legislation Amendment (Licensing) Bill 2026, Legislative Scrutiny Committee, February 2026 (Paper 614) and Associated Minutes of Proceedings (Paper 615) and made a statement.

8. REPORT FROM THE LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Mrs Carlson (Chair of the Legislative Scrutiny Committee) tabled the Report, Inquiry into the Bail Amendment Bill 2026, Legislative Scrutiny Committee, March 2026 (Paper 616) and Associated Minutes of Proceedings (Paper 617) and made a statement.

9. SENTENCING AMENDMENT (MURDER) BILL 2026 (SERIAL 51)

Order of the day read for moving the second reading of the Sentencing Amendment (Murder) Bill 2026 (Serial 51).

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

Mr Paech, Ms Cahill, Mr Guyula, Mr Howe, J Davis, 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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10. NOTICES

The following notices were given:

1. J Davis informed the Assembly of an amendment to the General Business Notice No. 25:

   That this Assembly:

   - Notes the importance of safe, respectful and professional parliamentary workplaces;
   - Acknowledges that all members have a responsibility to model integrity, dignity and respectful conduct in every setting connected to their role;
   - Recognises that bullying, harassment, discrimination, intimidation and misuse of authority have no place in the Northern Territory Parliament, including towards Department of the Legislative Assembly staff;
   - Supports the amendment of the *Legislative Assembly (Members' Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards) Act 2008* to include a clear Behaviour Code for Members, with independent oversight, confidential complaint handling, and a range of proportionate sanctions; and

- Calls on the Government to implement such a Behaviour Code as a priority to ensure parliamentary standards reflect community expectations and is consistent with best practice across the Commonwealth.

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

That this Assembly:

1. Notes that in 2022 the Member for Spillett introduced the Fuel Price Disclosure Bill, stating it would drive down fuel prices and ease cost-of-living pressures for Territorians.
2. Notes that Territorians continue to face some of the highest fuel prices in the nation and that cost-of-living pressures remain a major concern for families, businesses and regional communities.
3. Calls on the CLP Government to honour its commitment to Territorians by introducing and passing the Fuel Price Disclosure Bill during this term of Parliament.

3. Mr Young informed the Assembly of an amendment to the General Business Notice No. 4:

That the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly:

Call on the Finocchiaro CLP Government to address the high cost of airfares and the availability, reliability and connectivity of air services across the Northern Territory as a priority to support the Territory's economic development and Territorians' liveability standards.

11. MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Mr Edgington (Leader of Government Business) informed the Assembly that in the absence of Minister Hersey, all questions relating to the minister's portfolios are to be directed to the Deputy Chief Minister.

12. QUESTIONS

2.02 Ms Uibo to Mr Edgington
2.07 Mr Mackay to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.11 Ms Uibo to Mr Edgington
2.14 Mr O'Gallagher to Mr Edgington
2.18 Ms Uibo to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.24 Mrs Carlson to Mr Yan
2.28 Ms Uibo to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.33 Mr Patel to Ms Cahill
2.37 Ms Uibo to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.41 Mr Kerle to Mr Maley
2.45 J Davis to Mr Burgoyne
2.46 Mr Howe to Ms Boothby
2.50 Mr Young to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.54 Mrs Zio to Ms Cahill
2.58 Mr Brown to Mrs Finocchiaro
3.02 Dr Rahman to Mr Edgington

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

13. SENTENCING AMENDMENT (MURDER) BILL 2026 (SERIAL 51)

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

Mrs Zio, Mrs Carlson, Mr Patel, Mr Mackay, Ms Boothby (in reply).

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

The Assembly considered the Bill in detail.

Clauses 1 to 3 stand as printed.

Clause 4.

J Davis moved the following amendment:

After clause 4(3)

insert

(4) Section 53A(7)

omit, insert

(7) For there to be exceptional circumstances sufficient to justify fixing a shorter non-parole period under subsection (6), the sentencing court must be satisfied of any of the following matters and must not have regard to any other matters:

(a) the offender is:

(i) otherwise a person of good character; and

(ii) unlikely to re-offend;

(b) the victim's conduct, or conduct and condition, substantially mitigate the conduct of the offender;

(c) the victim had committed domestic violence (including coercive control, as defined in section 5B of the *Domestic and Family Violence Act 2007*) against the offender to an extent that substantially mitigates the conduct of the offender.

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

Ayes 6

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

Noes 16

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

Amendment not agreed to.

Clause 4 stands as printed.

Remainder of the Bill stands as printed.

Bill agreed to.

Ms Boothby 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	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 Guyula	Mr Paech
Ms Uibo	Mr Young		

Motion passed.

Bill read a third time.

14. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: 2026—THE YEAR AHEAD

Order of the day read for the resumption of debate on the question that the statement be noted.

Mr Kerle.

Debate adjourned on the motion of Mr Edgington.

15. PAPER TABLED

The Deputy Speaker advised that the Government Response to the Legislative Scrutiny Committee Report, Inquiry into the Teacher Registration (Northern Territory) Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, from the Hon. Jo Hersey MLA, was deemed tabled on 9 March 2026 pursuant to Standing Order 201 (Paper 607).

16. MOTION: ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr Edgington (Leader of Government Business) moved that the Assembly now move to the Matter of Public Importance.

Question put and passed.

17. MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE: WEATHER RESILIENCE AND CONNECTIVITY ACROSS TERRITORY COMMUNITIES

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

> Weather resilience and connectivity across Territory communities.

Having received the necessary support, discussion ensued.

Mr Maley, Mrs Finocchiaro, Mr Guyula, Mr Paech, Mr Burgoyne, Mr Young, Mr Edgington.

Discussion concluded.

18. MOTION: REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

The Speaker advised the Assembly she had received written notification of a matter of privilege from the Leader of the Opposition and, pursuant to Standing Order 229, determined that the matter should have precedence over other business.

Ms Uibo moved that this Assembly:

> Refers the conduct of the Member for Fong Lim, in relation to allegations concerning his treatment of Legislative Assembly staff during the 2025 Parliamentary Inquiry into Voluntary Assisted Dying, to the Committee of Privileges for inquiry and report.

Mr Edgington moved that the question be put.

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

Ayes 13

Ms Boothby	Mr Burgoyne	Ms Cahill	Mrs Carlson
Mr Charls	Mr Edgington	Mrs Finocchiaro	Mr Howe
Mr Kerle	Mr Mackay	Mr Maley	Mr Patel
Mrs Zio			

Noes 5

Mr Brown	J Davis	Mr Paech	Ms Uibo
Mr Young			

Motion passed.

Question, that the Member for Fong Lim be referred to the Committee of Privileges, put and the Assembly divided:

Ayes 5

Mr Brown	J Davis	Mr Paech	Ms Uibo
Mr Young			

Noes 13

Ms Boothby	Mr Burgoyne	Ms Cahill	Mrs Carlson
Mr Charls	Mr Edgington	Mrs Finocchiaro	Mr Howe
Mr Kerle	Mr Mackay	Mr Maley	Mr Patel
Mrs Zio			

Motion negatived.

19. ADJOURNMENT

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

Mrs Finocchiaro, Ms Uibo, Mr Howe, Mr Charls, J Davis, Mr Paech, Mr Kerle, Mr Young.

Question put and passed.

The Assembly adjourned at 8.13 pm until Wednesday 11 March 2026 at 10.00 am.

DEEMED PAPER

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

Police Administration Act 1978

Police Arbitral Tribunal, Determination No. 1 of 2026, Police Public Safety Officer, *Police Administration Act 1978* (Paper 618)

ATTENDANCE

All members attended the meeting, except Mrs Hersey on leave.

RUSSELL KEITH
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly