Northern Territory of Australia
Legislative Assembly

Minutes of Proceedings

Meeting Number 20
Tuesday 13 May 2025

---

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. MESSAGES FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Speaker advised members of the following messages from His Honour Professor the Honourable Hugh Heggie AO PSM, Administrator of the Northern Territory (Paper 250) (Paper 251).

Message Number 5

Assent to Proposed Laws

I, HUGH HEGGIE AO PSM, the 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 law:

30 April 2025
Bail and Youth Justice Legislation Amendment Act 2025 (Act No. 9 of 2025)

Dated 6 May 2025.

Message Number 6

Appropriation (2025-2026) Bill 2025

I, Hugh Crosby Heggie, Administrator of the Northern Territory of Australia, under section 11 of the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978* (Cth), recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill for an Act that authorises an amount to be paid from the Central Holding Authority to the Purposes of the Agencies or other Purposes specified in the Bill for the financial year ending 30 June 2026.

Dated 9 May 2025.

3. SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

The Speaker advised of the presence of media in the Chamber to record the Treasurer's delivery of the Budget speech and the Leader of the Opposition's Budget reply speech the following day.

The Speaker advised of the appointment of Dr Caroline Williams as the Executive Director of Parliamentary Support at the Department of the Legislative Assembly.

4. MOTION: ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr Edgington (Leader of Government Business), by leave, moved:

That, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Standing or Sessional Orders:

1. Government Business have precedence over Assembly Business this morning;
2. The Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 (Serial 26) be presented at the same time as the Appropriation (2025-2026) Bill 2025 (Serial 25) and the bills be considered together through all stages in the Assembly; and
3. The Appropriation (2025-2026) Bill and the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill have precedence over other business tomorrow morning to allow the Leader of the Opposition's reply to proceed after 10 am.

Question put and passed.

5. APPROPRIATION (2025-2026) BILL 2025 (SERIAL 25) AND REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025 (SERIAL 26)

Mr Yan (Treasurer), pursuant to forgoing motion, presented a Bill for an Act to authorise an amount to be paid from the Central Holding Authority for the financial year ending 30 June 2026, and a Bill for an Act to amend the *Gaming Control Act 1993*, the *Payroll Tax Act 2009*, the *Racing and Wagering Act 2024* and the *Stamp Duty Act 1978*, and tabled the Budget Papers and Explanatory Statement (Paper 252).

Mr Yan moved that the Bills be now read a first time and delivered an explanatory speech.

Papers Tabled: Mr Yan (Treasurer) tabled the following papers:

1. Budget Paper 2025-26 No. 1 – Speech and Appropriation Bill (Paper 253).
2. Budget Paper 2025-26 No. 2 – Budget Strategy and Outlook (Paper 254).
3. Budget Paper 2025-26 No. 3 – Agency Budget Statements (Paper 255).
4. Budget Paper 2025-26 No. 4 – The Infrastructure Program (Paper 256).
5. Budget Paper 2025-26 – Northern Territory Economy (Paper 257).
6. Budget Paper 2025-26 – Budget and Regional Overview (Paper 258).

Question put and passed.

Bills read a first time.

Suspension of Meeting: The meeting of the Assembly was suspended between 10.47 am and 2.00 pm.

---

6. VISITORS

On behalf of all members, the Speaker welcomed international students and teachers from Alana Kaye College present in the gallery.

7. NOTICES

The following notices were given:

1. Mr Edgington will move on the next meeting day:

   That the Assembly resolves that:

   1. There be appointed an Estimates Committee of the Legislative Assembly (the Committee) for the purposes of examining and reporting on the:
      1. estimates of proposed expenditure contained in the Appropriation (2025-2026) Bill (the Appropriation Bill) and related budget documents, and
      2. Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 (Serial 26), and

3. activities, performance, practices and financial management of the Power and Water Corporation, Jacana Energy and Territory Generation, with reference to those corporations' Statements of Corporate Intent 2025-26.

2. The membership of the Committee will be three Government members, one Opposition member and one cross-bench member to be nominated in writing to the Speaker by the relevant Whip or cross-bench member. Nominations to the Speaker should occur no later than Monday 19 May 2025.
3. The Committee may hold hearings on the following days:
   Tuesday, 10 June 2025
   Wednesday, 11 June 2025
   Thursday, 12 June 2025
   Monday, 16 June 2025
   Tuesday, 17 June 2025
   Wednesday, 18 June 2025
   Thursday, 19 June 2025
4. The total time for hearings of the Committee may not exceed 60 hours.
5. The maximum time of the appearance of the Chief Minister and the Treasurer shall not exceed 8 hours. For each other Minister and the Speaker the maximum time of their appearance shall not exceed 7 hours.
6. The Committee will publish a schedule of the days and times of hearings, and the times allotted for hearing from Ministers, the Speaker and Board Chairs by Friday 23 May 2025. The Committee may only amend the published schedule with the consent of the Leader of Government Business.
7. The Committee shall examine the proposed expenditure contained in the Appropriation Bill by portfolios in accordance with an agenda published by the Committee and the proposed expenditure shall be considered on an output by output basis for each portfolio unit.
8. All questions should conform to Standing Order 109 and answers will be concise and directly relevant to the question asked.
9. Answers to questions taken on notice during the hearings, or additional information about an answer given by or on behalf of a Minister, the Speaker or Board Chair, are to be written and given to the Estimates Committee Secretariat by 14 July 2025. Answers or additional information so received are authorised for publication.
10. The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly is authorised to publish a transcript of the Committee proceedings, whether or not it has been edited, as soon as practicable.
11. Evidence taken in public by the Committee and documents presented to the Committee are deemed to be authorised for publication by the Committee, unless the Committee orders otherwise.
12. At a hearing of the Committee, the Chair may, after a warning, order any member of the Assembly whose conduct, in the opinion of the Chair, continues to be disorderly or disruptive to immediately withdraw from the Committee for a period of 1 hour.
13. Following its second reading, the Bill stands referred to the Committee for report by 19 June 2025 after which consideration in detail will take place followed by the third reading.
14. The Assembly's Routine of Business for Thursday, 19 June 2025 is:
    1. 2.30pm
       Prayers and Acknowledgement of Country
    2. Report from Estimates Committee and consideration of the Appropriation (2025-2026) Bill 2025 and the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

15. When the Committee's report on the Appropriation Bill is presented, the Assembly shall immediately consider the question:

    that the expenditure proposed in the Appropriation (2025-2026) Bill stand as printed, and the report of the Estimates Committee be noted.

16. The following time limits shall apply to the debate on this question:
    - Ministers, Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Ministers: 20 minutes;
    - Any other member: 10 minutes;
    - The maximum period for consideration shall be 5 hours.

17. When the question on the expenditure proposed in the Appropriation Bill is agreed to, the following question is proposed and put immediately:

    that the remainder of the Bill and the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill stand as printed.

18. When the Bills have been agreed to by the Assembly, their third reading may be taken into consideration immediately.

19. This resolution shall have effect notwithstanding anything contained in Standing and Sessional Orders.

2. K McNamara informed the Assembly of an amendment to the General Business Notice No. 2, Protecting Territorians from Gambling Harms:

That the NT Legislative Assembly:

- Acknowledge that gambling and pokies causes significant harm in our community.
- Recognise that the financial and social costs to our economy and community from gambling and pokies far outweigh any benefits from the Community Benefit Fund.
- Recognise that the current taxation on gambling profits is woefully inadequate.
- Calls on the CLP Government to:
    - Minimise harm from pokies by -
        - Introducing pre-commitment systems to all venues with pokies, including casinos.
        - Reduce the load up limit for pokies to $100
    - Increase transparency on the gambling industry by -
        - Reintroduce mandatory publishing of venue earnings/taxation.
        - Publish monthly venue-specific data in line with other jurisdictions.
        - Release the publicly funded NT Gambling Prevalence and Wellbeing Survey report within a month of receipt.
    - Increase revenue for the NT and make online gambling companies pay their fair share of tax by -
        - Increase the tax on gambling corporations using NT bookmaker/betting exchange licenses
        - Remove the cap on this tax.
    - Improve integrity and accountability to the public by banning all gifts from individuals or companies in the gambling industry to MLAs, their staff and other statutory decision makers.

8. PETITION

Petition Number 10: Dr Rahman presented Petition Number 10 from 380 petitioners, not conforming with Standing Orders, opposing the Berrimah Road duplication project (Paper 260).

Petition read.

Dr Rahman moved that Petition Number 10 be referred to the Public Accounts Committee.

Question put and passed.

9. QUESTIONS

2.08 Ms Uibo to Mr Yan
2.12 Dr Rahman to Mr Yan
2.16 Mr Young to Mr Yan
2.19 Mr Kerle to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.23 Mr Brown to Mr Yan
2.28 Mr Mackay to Mr Maley
2.31 Mr Paech to Mrs Hersey
2.35 Mr Paech to Mrs Hersey – Supplementary
2.36 Mrs Zio to Ms Boothby
2.40 Mr Guyula to Ms Boothby, redirected to Mr Maley
2.45 Mr Patel to Mrs Hersey
2.49 K McNamara to Mr Burgoyne
2.53 Mr Howe to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.57 Mr Brown to Mr Edgington
3.01 Mr O'Gallagher to Mr Maley
3.05 J Davis to Mr Yan, redirected to Mr Maley
3.09 Mrs Carlson to Mr Edgington

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

10. REPORT FROM THE LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Mrs Carlson (Chair of the Legislative Scrutiny Committee) tabled the Report, Inquiry into the Attorney-General Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, Legislative Scrutiny Committee, April 2025 (Paper 261) and Associated Minutes of Proceedings (Paper 262) and made a statement.

11. REPORT FROM THE LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Mrs Carlson (Chair of the Legislative Scrutiny Committee) tabled the Report, Inquiry into the Local Government Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, Legislative Scrutiny Committee, April 2025 (Paper 263) and Associated Minutes of Proceedings (Paper 264) and made a statement.

12. REPORT FROM THE LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Mrs Carlson (Chair of the Legislative Scrutiny Committee) tabled the Report, Inquiry into the Domestic and Family Violence and Victims Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, Legislative Scrutiny Committee April 2025 (Paper 265) and Associated Minutes of Proceedings (Paper 266) and made a statement.

13. REPORT FROM THE LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Mrs Carlson (Chair of the Legislative Scrutiny Committee) tabled the Report, Inquiry into the Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, Legislative Scrutiny Committee, April 2025 (Paper 267) and Associated Minutes of Proceedings (Paper 268) and made a statement.

14. APPROPRIATION (2025-2026) BILL 2025 (SERIAL 25) AND REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025 (SERIAL 26)

Order of the day read for moving the second reading of the Appropriation (2025-2026) Bill 2025 (Serial 25) and the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 (Serial 26).

Mr Yan (Treasurer) moved that the Bills be now read a second time.

Mrs Finocchiaro, Mr Charls, Mr Burgoyne.

On the motion of Mr Edgington the debate was adjourned.

15. PORTABLE LONG SERVICE LEAVE (COMMUNITY SERVICES SECTOR) REPEAL BILL 2025 (SERIAL 18)

Order of the day read for moving the second reading of the Portable Long Service Leave (Community Services Sector) Repeal Bill 2025 (Serial 18).

Mrs Hersey (Minister for Public Service) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

Ms Uibo, Ms Cahill, J Davis, K McNamara, Mr Charls, Mrs Hersey (in reply).

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

The Assembly considered the Bill in detail.

Clauses 1 to 4 stand as printed.

Remainder of the Bill stands as printed.

Bill agreed to.

Mrs Hersey moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

Question put and the Assembly divided:

Ayes 17

Ms Boothby	Mr Burgoyne	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 7

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

Motion passed.

Bill read a third time.

16. MOTION: AMENDMENTS TO THE SESSIONAL ORDERS

Mr Edgington (Leader of Government Business), by leave, moved:

> That the Sessional Orders adopted on 15 October 2024 and amended on 26 November 2024 be amended by deleting Sessional Order 13.5 and inserting the following:
>
> 13.5 Bill's referral to the Legislation Scrutiny Committee, Urgency or Second Reading Debate after 28 days have elapsed
>
> (1) After the first reading of a bill, other than an annual appropriation bill, the second reading of the bill will be made an order of the day for the first Assembly meeting after 28 days have elapsed, unless the Assembly refers the bill to the Legislative Scrutiny Committee or declares the bill to be urgent in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) The Member in charge of the bill may move either:
   a) a motion referring the bill to the scrutiny committee for report by a particular date, with the question to be put without amendment or debate; or
   b) "that the bill be declared urgent", to which the mover or any other member may speak for 5 minutes.

(3) If the bill is declared to be urgent, the Member in charge of the bill shall move:
   a) "that the bill be now read a second time"; or
   b) "that the second reading of the bill be made an order of the day for a later hour".

(4) After the first reading of an annual appropriation bill, a Minister may move that the bill be read a second time.

Mr Edgington moved that the question be put.

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

Ayes 16

Ms Boothby	Mr Burgoyne	Ms Cahill	Mrs Carlson
Mr Charls	Mr Edgington	Mrs Hersey	Mr Howe
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.

Question put and passed.

Paper Tabled: Mrs Finocchiaro (Chief Minister) tabled: Letter to the Hon. Lia Finocchiaro MLA, regarding the resignation of Mr Riches, Independent Commissioner Against Corruption, dated 13 May 2025, from Bruce McClintock SC, ICAC Inspector (Paper 269).

---

17. RESPONSE TO PETITION

The Clerk, pursuant to Standing Order 123, tabled a response to Petition Number 4, concerning the immediate withdrawal of the proposal to establish the Territory Coordinator under the terms proposed (Paper 270).

18. ADJOURNMENT

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

Ms Boothby, Mr Howe, Mrs Hersey, Mr Maley, Mr Patel, Mr O'Gallagher, Ms Uibo.

Question put and passed.

The Assembly adjourned at 6.46 pm until Wednesday 14 May 2025 at 10.00 am.

DEEMED PAPERS

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

Health and Community Services Complaints Act 1998

Annual Report 2023-24 – Health and Community Services Complaints Commission, *Health and Community Services Complaints Act 1998* (Paper 259)

ATTENDANCE
All members attended the meeting.



RUSSELL KEITH
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly