Northern Territory of Australia
Legislative Assembly

Minutes of Proceedings

Meeting Number 67
Tuesday 20 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. VISITORS

On behalf of all members, the Speaker welcomed students and teachers from Minyerri as part of their week at the Michael Long Learning and Leadership Centre present in the gallery.

3. MINISTERIAL REPORT: CHILD PROTECTION IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Ms Cahill (Minister for Children and Families) delivered a report regarding Child Protection in the Northern Territory and moved the report be noted.

Paper tabled: Ms Cahill tabled: Report, Independent Review into the Conduct of the Department of Children and Families, Ms Karen Webb and Mr Greg Shanahan, 12 October 2026 (Paper 847).

Mr Edgington moved that the debate be adjourned.

Question, that the debate be adjourned, 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 McGrath	Mr Paech
Mr Smelt	Ms Uibo	Mr Young	

Motion passed.

4. LANDS AND PLANNING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (RED TAPE REDUCTION) BILL 2026 (SERIAL 77)

Order of the day read for moving the second reading of the Lands and Planning Legislation Amendment (Red Tape Reduction) Bill 2026 (Serial 77).

Mr Burgoyne (Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr Smelt, Mr Yan, Mr Mackay, J Davis, Mr Burgoyne (in reply).

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

The Assembly considered the Bill in detail.

Clauses 1 to 7 stand as printed.

Clause 8.

Mr Burgoyne moved the following amendment:

Clause 8, proposed section 25H(4), page 4

omit, insert

(4) However, the information, answer or document is not admissible in evidence against the person in any proceeding other than:

(a) a proceeding against the person for professional misconduct under this Act; or

(b) a proceeding for an offence against this Act.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 8 stands as amended.

Clause 9 stands as printed.

Clause 10.

Mr Burgoyne moved the following amendment:

Clause 10, proposed section 33(4), page 6

omit, insert

(4) However, the information, answer or document is not admissible in evidence against the person in any proceeding other than:

(a) a proceeding against the person for professional misconduct under this Act; or

(b) a proceeding for an offence against this Act.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 10 stands as amended.

Clause 11.

Mr Burgoyne moved the following amendment:

Clause 11, proposed section 34E(4)

omit, insert

(4) However, the information, answer or document is not admissible in evidence against the person in any proceeding other than:

(a) a proceeding against the person for professional misconduct under this Act; or

(b) a proceeding for an offence against this Act.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 11 stands as amended.

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Clauses 12 to 20 stand as printed.

Consideration in Detail interrupted.

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

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5. STATEMENT ON THE ATTACK ON DR HELEN HAINES MP

Mrs Finocchiaro (Chief Minister) made a short statement on the attack on Dr Helen Haines MP.

Ms Uibo, J Davis, Speaker.

6. NOTICES

The following notices were given:

1. Mr Burgoyne (Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment) will present on the next meeting day a Bill titled Environment and Water Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 (Serial 81).

2. Mr Paech will move on the next General Business day that:

   The Assembly calls on the CLP Government to:
   - Provide additional child protection funding in the mid-year budget, consult frontline experts and adequately resource implementation of the Webb--Shanahan review recommendations without overburdening caseworkers.

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

   The Assembly calls on the CLP Government to:
   - Work with the Commonwealth to expand essential food subsidies for remote communities, improve food storage facilities in housing, and sustainably fund frontline organisations responding to food insecurity across the Territory.

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

   The Assembly calls on the CLP Government to:
   - Reduce electricity hardship by lowering prepayment meter tariffs, improving access to hardship support, requiring public reporting of involuntary disconnections, and expanding concessions to better protect vulnerable households across the Territory.

7. QUESTIONS

2.07 Ms Uibo to Ms Cahill
2.12 Mr Howe to Mrs Finocchiaro
2.19 Mr Kerle to Mr Maley
2.23 Ms Uibo to Ms Cahill
2.27 Mrs Carlson to Ms Cahill

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

2.31 Mr Smelt to Ms Cahill
2.33 Mr Mackay to Mr Burgoyne

2.37 Mr Brown to Ms Cahill
2.41 Mrs Zio to Ms Boothby
2.44 Mr Young to Ms Cahill
2.46 Mr Young to Ms Cahill – Supplementary
2.47 Dr Rahman to Mr Yan
2.51 J Davis to Mr Maley
2.54 Mr Patel to Mr Charls
2.58 Ms Uibo to Ms Cahill
3.00 Mr O'Gallagher to Mr Edgington

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

8. LANDS AND PLANNING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (RED TAPE REDUCTION) BILL 2026 (SERIAL 77)

Order of the day read for the resumption of Consideration in Detail of the Lands and Planning Legislation Amendment (Red Tape Reduction) Bill 2026 (Serial 77).

Clauses 21 to 27 stand as printed.

Clause 28.

Mr Burgoyne moved the following amendment:

Clause 28, proposed section 212(7) and (8), page 13

omit

occupational

insert

occupancy

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 28 stands as amended.

Clauses 29 to 51 stand as printed.

Clause 52.

Mr Smelt moved the following amendment:

Clause 52, at the end

insert

(2) Section 9(1B)(b)

omit

made.

insert

made; or

(3) After section 9(1B)(b)

insert

(c) a place that is located on Aboriginal land, within the meaning of the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (Cth) – unless the Land Council, within the meaning of the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (Cth) established in respect of the land on which the place is located agrees to the recommendation being made; or

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(d) a place if the recommendation is to use an Aboriginal word or traditional place name – unless the community or language group of Aboriginal persons with traditional responsibility for the place agrees to the recommendation being made.

(4) Section 9(4), definition ***interested persons***, after paragraph (b)

insert

(ba) if the report relates to a place that is of Aboriginal cultural, linguistic or historical significance – the relevant Aboriginal persons, community groups or representative bodies in respect of the place.

Amendment not agreed to.

Clause 52 stands as printed.

Clause 53.

Mr Smelt moved the following amendment:

Clause 53, after proposed section 10A(2), page 30

insert

(2A) The Surveyor-General must not make a recommendation under subsection (1) in relation to naming or altering the name of any of the following places, but may instead refer the place to the Committee under subsection (2):

(a) a place that is located on Aboriginal land, within the meaning of the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (Cth);

(b) a place if the recommendation is to use an Aboriginal word or traditional place name;

(c) a place that is of Aboriginal cultural, linguistic or historical significance.

Amendment not agreed to.

Mr Smelt moved the following amendment:

Clause 53, after proposed section 10A(4), page 30

insert

(4A) If the Surveyor-General intends to make a recommendation under subsection (1) in relation to naming or altering the name of a place within a local government area, the Surveyor-General must:

(a) seek the views of the local government council established for the area; and

(b) include those views in the report to the Minister.

Amendment not agreed to.

Clause 53 stands as printed.

Clause 54 stands as printed.

Clause 55.

J Davis moved the following amendment:

Clause 55(1), after proposed section 11A(1A)

insert

(1B) Subsections (1) and (1A) do not apply to the Minister's power in relation to the following:

(a) the naming or altering of the name of a place that is on Aboriginal land, within the meaning of the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (Cth);

(b) the naming or altering of the name of a place using an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander name or place name;

(c) the naming of a place to commemorate an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person.

Amendment not agreed to.

Mr Burgoyne moved the following amendment:

Clause 55(3)

omit, insert

(3) Section 11A(2)(e)

omit

years; or

insert

years.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 55 stands as amended.

Clauses 56 to 60 stand as printed.

Clause 61.

J Davis moved the following amendment:

Clause 61

omit, insert

61 Section 22 amended (Submissions and hearing)

(1) Section 22(6)

omit, insert

(6) The Commission must conduct a hearing if:

(a) the Commission receives a submission; and

(b) the Chairperson considers that a hearing would aid the Commission's understanding of issues raised in submissions or provide further useful evidence or information.

(2) Section 22(9)

omit, insert

(9) If the Commission conducts a hearing, the Commission:

(a) must invite any local government council who made a submission to attend the hearing and give evidence; and

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(b) must invite any person or body representing the interests of Aboriginal people that made a submission to attend the hearing and give evidence; and

(c) may invite any other person or body who made a submission to attend the hearing and give evidence.

Amendment not agreed to.

Clause 61 stands as printed.

Clauses 62 to 65 stand as printed.

Clause 66.

Mr Burgoyne moved the following amendment:

After clause 66

insert

66A Section 40 amended (Grant or variation of permit or refusal to grant or vary)

Section 40(4)

omit, insert

(4) If the Minister has decided under section 39 that a proposal to grant or vary an exceptional development permit is not so significant as to require exhibition, the Minister must:

(d) in relation to a proposal to grant an exceptional development permit:

(i) grant a permit in accordance with the proposal; or

(ii) alter the proposal and grant a permit in accordance with the altered proposal; or

(iii) refuse to grant a permit; or

(e) in relation to a proposal to vary an exceptional development permit:

(i) vary the permit in accordance with the proposal; or

(ii) alter the proposal and vary the permit in accordance with the altered proposal; or

(iii) refuse to vary the permit.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 66 stands as amended.

Clauses 67 and 68 stand as printed.

Clause 69.

Mr Smelt moved the following amendment:

Clause 69(1), proposed section 50(1)

omit

The

insert

Subject to subsections (1A) and (1B), the

Amendment not agreed to.

Mr Smelt moved the following amendment:

Clause 69(1), after proposed section 50(1)

insert

(1A) If the consent authority receives a submission from a local government council under section 49(3), the consent authority must hold a meeting and invite a representative of the council to attend the meeting and give evidence.

(1B) If the consent authority receives a submission from an Aboriginal organisation in relation to the interests of Aboriginal people the consent authority must hold a meeting and invite a representative of the organisation to attend the meeting and give evidence.

Amendment not agreed to.

Clause 69 stands as printed.

Clauses 70 and 71 stand as printed.

Clause 72.

Mr Smelt moved the following amendment:

Clause 72, after proposed section 79AA(4), page 38

insert

(5) If the consent authority refuses to investigate the alleged contravention under subsection (2)(b), the consent authority must give the authorised officer who referred the matter written notice of the refusal and the reasons for it.

Amendment not agreed to.

Clause 72 stands as printed.

Clauses 73 to 86 stand as printed.

Remainder of the Bill stands as printed.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Mr Burgoyne moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time.

9. NATIONAL ELECTRICITY (NORTHERN TERRITORY) (NATIONAL UNIFORM LEGISLATION) LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2026 (SERIAL 75)

Order of the day read for moving the second reading of the National Electricity (Northern Territory) (National Uniform Legislation) Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 (Serial 75).

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

Ms Uibo, J Davis, Mr Maley (in reply).

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

Mr Maley, by leave, moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time.

10. PAPER TABLED

The Speaker tabled: Report, 2024 Territory Election, Northern Territory Electoral Commission, 9 October 2026 (Paper 851).

11. PAPERS TABLED: REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Mrs Zio (Deputy Chair of the Public Accounts Committee) tabled Report, Annual Report 2025-26, Public Accounts Committee, October 2026 (Paper 852) and Associated Minutes of Proceedings (Paper 853) and made a statement.

Mrs Zio moved that the report be noted.

Question put and passed.

12. MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE: CRISIS IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY HEALTH SYSTEM

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

> The serious and growing capacity crisis in the Northern Territory health system.

Having received the necessary support, discussion ensued.

Mr Paech, Mr Edgington, Mr Smelt, Mrs Carlson, Mr McGrath, J Davis, Mr Charls, Mr Mackay, Mr Young.

Discussion concluded.

13. PERSONAL EXPLANATION: MR CHARLS

Mr Charls gave a personal explanation.

14. ADJOURNMENT

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

Mrs Finocchiaro, Mr Maley, Ms Uibo.

Paper tabled: Ms Uibo, by leave, tabled: Eulogy, Reverend Yulki Nunggumajbarr, date 7 September 2026 (Paper 854).

Mr Charls, Ms Cahill, Dr Rahman, Mr Paech, Mr Kerle, Mr Patel, Mr Smelt, Mr Howe, Mrs Hersey, Mrs Carlson.

Paper tabled: Mrs Carlson, by leave, tabled: Book, Darwin Divercity Series Edition 2, Celebrating Diversity in the Top End, One Photo at a Time (Paper 855).

Mr Mackay.

Question put and passed.

The Assembly adjourned at 9.37 pm until Wednesday 21 October 2026 at 10.00 am.

DEEMED PAPERS

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

Surveillance Devices Act 2007

Annual Report, Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission, Surveillance Devices Annual Report - 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026, *Surveillance Devices Act 2007* (Paper 850)

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Report, Ombudsman NT, Compliance by Northern Territory Police Force with *Surveillance Devices Act 2007*, August 2026 (Paper 849)

Financial Management Act 1995
Treasurer's Annual Financial Report 2025-26 (Paper 848)

ATTENDANCE
All members attended the meeting.

RUSSELL KEITH
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

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