NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting Number 40
Thursday 19 October 2017

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

2. PRAYERS

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY
Mr Gunner delivered the acknowledgement of country on behalf of the Assembly.

4. VISITORS
The Speaker advised Honourable Members of the presence in the gallery of a former Speaker, the Hon Roger Steele and Mr Shane Condon.

On behalf of all Members the Speaker welcomed the visitors.

5. SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS
The Speaker made a statement regarding the Meeting Day calendar for 2018.

Paper Tabled: The Speaker tabled a media release regarding the Meeting Day calendar for 2018 (Paper 475).

The Speaker also made a statement regarding Niue's 43rd anniversary of self-government.

6. MOTION: LEAVE OF ABSENCE AGREED TO
Ms Fyles (Leader of Government Business) moved that a leave of absence for today be granted to Mr Costa due to personal reasons.

Motion agreed to.

7. MOTION: EXTENSION TO THE REPORTING PERIOD FOR THE POLITICAL DONATIONS INQUIRY AGREED TO
Mr Gunner (Chief Minister), pursuant to notice, moved that the Assembly agree to extend the reporting period for the Political Donations Inquiry until 30 June 2018.

Question put and passed.

8. INDEPENDENT COMMISSIONER AGAINST CORRUPTION (CONSEQUENTIAL AND RELATED AMENDMENTS) BILL 2017 (SERIAL 35)
Ms Fyles (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend various Acts in consequence of the enactment of the *Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act* and tabled the Explanatory Statement (Paper 476) and the Human Rights Compatibility Statement (Paper 477).

Ms Fyles moved the Bill be read a first time and delivered an explanatory speech.

Bill read a first time.

Ms Fyles moved that the Bill be referred to the Social Policy Scrutiny Committee for report by the first Meeting Day in February 2018.

Question put and passed.

9. MOTION: HORIZONTAL FISCAL EQUALISATION

Ms Manison (Treasurer), pursuant to notice, moved:

That this Assembly:

- condemns the move by Federal Treasurer Scott Morrison to change the measure of Horizontal Fiscal Equalisation from "equal" to "reasonable";
- stands united against this proposal, which would widen the gap on Indigenous disadvantage, stifle development in the North, and lead to a permanent drop in the Territory's GST revenue;
- writes to the Federal Treasurer Scott Morrison, calling on him to make no changes to how GST revenues are distributed, unless all States and Territories are in agreement; and
- calls on the Opposition Leader to ensure his party colleague Senator Scullion stands up for the Territory on this issue.

Papers Tabled: Ms Manison (Treasurer) tabled:

1. Department of Treasury and Finance, Pre-Election Fiscal Outlook Report, 18 August 2017 (Paper 478).
2. Budget 2017-2018, Federal Financial Relations Budget Paper No. 3, 2017-2018 (Paper 479).
3. Commonwealth Grants Commission, 2018 Update - New Issues for the 2018 Update, Staff Discussion Paper, 15 August 2017 (Paper 480).
4. Horizontal Fiscal Equalisation, Productivity Commission Draft Report, October 2017 (Paper 481).

Mr Higgins.

Papers Tabled: Mr Higgins (Leader of the Opposition) tabled, by leave:

1. Letter, HFE Inquiry, Productivity Commission, re: Public consultation on the draft report: HFE Inquiry, from Mr Gary Higgins, Leader of the Opposition, dated 9 October 2017 (Paper 482).
2. Letter, Horizontal Fiscal Equalisation Inquiry, Productivity Commission, re: Productivity Commission Review of Horizontal Fiscal Equalisation Submission, from Mr Gary Higgins, Leader of the Opposition, dated 30 June 2018 (Paper 483).

Mr Higgins moved the following amendment:

Delete all words after 'Assembly' and replace with:

- rejects the recommendation of the draft report of the Productivity Commission which changes the measure of Horizontal Fiscal Equalisation from "equal" to "reasonable";
- stands united against this proposal, which would widen the gap on Indigenous disadvantage, stifle development in the North, and lead to a permanent drop in the Territory's GST revenue;

- writes to the Federal Treasurer Scott Morrison, calling on him to make no changes to how GST revenues are distributed, unless all States and Territories are in agreement;
- calls on the Opposition Leader to ensure his party colleague Senator Scullion stands up for the Territory on this issue; and
- calls on the Chief Minister to ensure his party colleague the Federal Labor leader, Bill Shorten, stands up for the Territory on this issue.

Ms Lawler, Mr Vowles, Mrs Finocchiaro.

Debate suspended.

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

---

10. VISITOR

The Speaker advised Honourable Members of the presence in the gallery of the former Member for Johnston, Dr Chris Burns.

On behalf of all Members the Speaker welcomed the visitor.

11. QUESTIONS

14.00 Mr Higgins to Ms Moss
14.01 Mrs Finocchiaro to Mr Gunner
14.04 Mrs Finocchiaro to Mr Gunner - Supplementary
14.05 Ms Ah Kit to Ms Fyles
14.08 Mr Wood to Mr McCarthy
14.12 Ms Uibo to Mr Gunner
14.15 Mr Higgins to Ms Manison
14.19 Mr McConnell to Mr McCarthy

Visitor: The Speaker advised Honourable Members of the presence in the gallery of Nathan Finn, Officer in Charge, Palmerston Police Station and President of Litchfield Bears Rugby League Club.

On behalf of all Members the Speaker welcomed the visitor.

14.23 Mrs Finocchiaro to Ms Fyles
14.27 Mr Paech to Ms Manison
14.30 Mr Guyula to Ms Fyles
14.33 Ms Uibo to Ms Lawler
14.37 Mrs Finocchiaro to Mr Gunner
14.40 Mr Paech to Ms Moss
14.44 Mr Guyula to Ms Wakefield
14.47 Mr Collins to Mr McCarthy
14.51 Mr Higgins to Ms Lawler

14.54 Mr McConnell to Ms Lawler
14.58 Mr Wood to Ms Moss

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

12. MOTION: HORIZONTAL FISCAL EQUALISATION AGREED TO

Resumption of debate on the question that the motion as amended be agreed to.

Mr McCarthy, Ms Wakefield, Ms Moss, Ms Fyles, Mr Sievers, Mr Wood, Mr Gunner, Ms Manison.

Amendment put.

The Assembly divided:

Ayes 3	**Noes 16**
Mrs Finocchiaro	Ms Ah Kit
Mr Guyula	Mr Collins
Mr Higgins	Mr Gunner
	Mr Kirby
	Ms Lawler
	Ms Manison
	Mr McCarthy
	Mr McConnell
	Ms Moss
	Ms Nelson
	Mr Paech
	Mr Sievers
	Ms Uibo
	Mr Vowles
	Ms Wakefield
	Mrs Worden

Amendment not agreed to.

Question put.

The Assembly divided:

Ayes 17	**Noes 4**
Ms Ah Kit	Mrs Finocchiaro
Mr Collins	Mr Guyula
Ms Fyles	Mr Higgins
Mr Gunner	Mr Mills
Mr Kirby	
Ms Lawler	
Ms Manison	
Mr McCarthy	
Mr McConnell	
Ms Moss	
Ms Nelson	
Mr Paech	
Mr Sievers	
Ms Uibo	
Mr Vowles	
Ms Wakefield	
Mrs Worden	

Motion agreed to.

13. ASSEMBLY MEMBERS AND STATUTORY OFFICERS (REMUNERATION AND OTHER ENTITLEMENTS) AMENDMENT BILL 2017 (SERIAL 27): BILL AGREED TO

Resumption of debate on the question that the Bill be read a second time.

Mr Higgins, Mr Gunner.

Bill read a second time.

On the motion of Mr Gunner (Chief Minister), by leave, the Bill was read a third time and passed to be a proposed law.

14. MINISTERIAL POLICY STATEMENT: EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN STATEMENT NOTED

Resumption of debate on the motion that the Assembly take note of the Policy Statement.

Ms Lawler, Ms Ah Kit, Mr Collins, Ms Manison.

Question put and passed.

15. CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE AND AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS AND GOVERNMENT RESPONSES

1. *Auditor-General for the Northern Territory, August 2017* (Paper 395). Deferred.

16. PAPER TABLED

The Speaker tabled:

1. Annual Report 2016-2017, House Committee (Paper 499).

17. STATEMENTS BY LEAVE

Ms Moss, by leave, made a statement regarding travel.

Mr Mills, by leave, made a statement regarding travel.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Ms Lawler (Minister for Education) moved that the Assembly adjourn.

Ms Lawler, Mr Paech, Mrs Worden, Ms Uibo, Mr Collins, Ms Nelson.

The Assembly adjourned at 19.42 until Tuesday 21 November 2017 at 10.00.

DEEMED PAPERS

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

Annual Reports 2016-2017:

Department of Education, 2016-2017 (Paper 484).
Department of Environment and Natural Resources, 2016-2017 (Paper 485).
Department of Health, 2016-2017 (Paper 486).
Department of Infrastructure Planning and Logistics, 2016-2017 (Paper 487).
Department of Tourism and Culture, 2016-2017 (Paper 488).
Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services, 2016-2017 (Paper 489).
NT Community Visitor Program, 2016-2017 (Paper 490).
Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator, 2016-2017 (Paper 491).
Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment, 2016-2017 (Paper 492).
Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment State of the Service Report,

2016-2017 (Paper 493).
Work Health and Safety Advisory Council, 2016-2017 (Paper 494).
Jacana Energy, 2016-2017 (Paper 496).
Territory Generation, 2016-2017(Paper 497).

Independent Auditor's Report:
Northern Territory Auditor-General's Office, Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2017 (Paper 495).

Statement of Corporate Intent:
Territory Generation Statement of Corporate Intent, 2016-2017 (Paper 498).

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

MICHAEL TATHAM
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly