Madam Speaker Purick took the Chair at 10 am.

TABLED PAPER
Administrative Arrangements Order

Mr ELFERINK (Leader of Government Business): Madam Speaker, I table a copy of the Administrative Arrangements Order published in the *Northern Territory Gazette No S47* dated 10 September 2013.

I advise the Assembly that on 10 September 2013 Her Honour the Administrator made the following appointment of ministers of the Northern Territory:

Mrs Bess Price, Minister for Community Services, Women's Policy, Parks and Wildlife and Statehood

Mr John Elferink, Minister for Children and Families.

I also table a copy of the Administrative Arrangements Order published in the *Northern Territory Gazette No S48* dated 16 September 2013. I advise the Assembly that on 16 September 2013 Her Honour the Administrator made the following additional appointment of a minister for the Northern Territory:

Mr Peter Styles, Minister for Transport.

MOTION
Changes to Committee Membership

Mr ELFERINK (Leader of Government Business)(by leave): Madam Speaker, I move that the Public Accounts Committee discharge Mrs Price and appoint Mr Kurrupuwu, the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee discharge Mrs Price and appoint Ms Lee, and the Committee on the Northern Territory's Energy Future discharge Mrs Price and appoint Mr Kurrupuwu. Madam Speaker, this is necessary as a result of Mrs Price being elevated to the ministry.

Motion agreed to.

MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATOR
Message No 11

Madam SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have received Message No 11 from Her Honour the Administrator notifying assent to bills passed in the August sittings. The message is dated 13 September 2013.

SUCCESSION TO THE CROWN (REQUEST) (NATIONAL UNIFORM LEGISLATION) BILL (Serial 39)

Continued from 28 August 2013.

Ms LAWRIE (Opposition Leader): Madam Speaker, this House has considered much legislation over the course of its life. While all matters considered by members on behalf of Territorians are important, some bills are, by their nature, more functional and operationally focused than others. Some bills are symbolic and iconic, some historic, some are necessary to allow the Territory to play its part as an active participant within the Federation. This bill is very much the latter.

Passage of this bill will mean the Territory will take its place alongside every other state and territory throughout Australia in requesting the Commonwealth parliament enacts legislation to change the laws of succession to the Crown which mirror changes to the law of royal succession in the UK. These changes will ensure an important and overdue step will have finally been taken to remove gender discrimination and religious bias from the succession process applied to the sovereign of Australia and the sovereign of the United Kingdom.

As agreed by the Commonwealth at the 16th CHOGM in October 2011, when the world's attention was focused on Perth, Australia undertook to take a uniform approach in amending the rules of succession across the jurisdiction. All Commonwealth members at the meeting historically agreed likewise. This legislation is a result of that decision and fulfils the Territory's part of that mechanism. Changing the succession rules to ensure a younger male son does not displace an older daughter in the line of succession, and removing the prohibition of an heir to the throne marrying a Catholic, would seem to all fair-minded people to be both necessary and welcome.

Regardless of one's views about whether Australia should have its own head of state in the constitutional monarchy versus republic debate, I am confident all Territorians, indeed Australians, can agree it is important to have a more modern, less archaic model while the current system remains in place.

Following the CHOGM meeting, then Chief Minister Paul Henderson gave in-principle support for these changes on behalf of the Territory and we continue that support today.

While it is true the Northern Territory does not constitutionally need to pass this legislation as our consent is not required by the Commonwealth due