

Madam Speaker Aagaard took the Chair at 10 am.

**STATEMENT BY SPEAKER
New Zealand Mining Disaster**

Madam SPEAKER: Honourable members, I note confirmation of the tragic death of 29 miners in New Zealand, including some Australians. As a mark of respect for their families and the people of New Zealand, the flags at Parliament House are at half mast today. With the concurrence of members, I ask you to join me in standing for one minute in silence as a mark of respect.

Members stood in silence for one minute.

Madam SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable members.

VISITORS

Madam SPEAKER: Honourable members, I draw your attention to the presence in the gallery of Years 7 to 9 Nightcliff Middle School students, accompanied by Ms Janine Woodroffe and Mrs Tasia Kondonis. On behalf of honourable members, I extend to you a very warm welcome.

Members: Hear, hear!

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE
Member for Karama**

Dr BURNS (Leader of Government Business): Madam Speaker, I move that the Treasurer, Ms Lawrie, be granted leave of absence for Thursday, 25 November 2010.

I inform the House that in Question Time today I will take questions relating to Attorney-General and Justice, and the Chief Minister will take questions for the remainder of the Treasurer's portfolios.

Mr ELFERINK (Port Darwin): Madam Speaker, I advise we had advance notice of this, and we have signed a pairing arrangement.

Motion agreed to.

**TABLED PAPER
Pairing Arrangements – Member for Karama
and Member for Katherine**

Madam SPEAKER: As indicated by the opposition Whip, I have received a document relating to pairs for the member for Karama with the member for Katherine, signed by both Whips. It is for today's sitting day. I table that document.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE
Member for Katherine**

Mr MILLS (Opposition Leader): Madam Speaker, I move that the member for Katherine, Mr Willem Westra van Holthe, be granted leave of absence for Thursday, 25 November 2010.

Motion agreed to.

**PETITION
Rural Area Cycle/Walk Paths**

Ms PURICK (Goyder): Madam Speaker, I present a petition from 328 petitioners praying that funding be allocated for the development of a cycle/walk path in the rural area, notably Virginia. The petition bears the Clerk's certificate that it conforms with the requirements of standing orders. Madam Speaker, I move that the petition be read.

Motion agreed to; petition read:

To the honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory, we the undersigned respectfully sheweth that we are seriously concerned for the safety of children and adults alike who wish to participate in push bike riding, walking or jogging along Virginia, Lowther, Bees Creek and Wells Creek Roads. A cycle/walking path should be made available to these areas to alleviate dangers and hazardous risks associated with using the main roads for such activities.

Your petitioners, therefore, humbly pray that the Northern Territory government commence planning immediately and allocate funding for the development of cycle/walk paths so that rural residents can enjoy the same services as residents in the urban areas.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will every pray.

**ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION (BEVERAGE
CONTAINERS AND PLASTIC BAGS) BILL
(Serial 136)**

Bill presented and read a first time.

Mr HAMPTON (Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage): Madam Speaker, I move that the bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of the Environment Protection (Beverage Containers and Plastic Bags) Bill is to establish the regulatory framework for a Northern Territory container deposit scheme and a ban on