

As I said at the beginning, I think it is appropriate that the two documents produced by the Council of Reconciliation should be tabled in this parliament, and I do so now. The two documents are entitled, *Australian Declaration - Towards Reconciliation* and secondly, *Roadmap for Reconciliation*.

Mr Speaker, I move that the Assembly take note of the papers.

Motion agreed to; papers noted.

RESPONSE TO PETITIONS **Distances Travelled to School**

The CLERK: Mr Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 100A, I inform honourable members the response to Petition No 41 has been received and circulated to honourable members. A text of the response will be included in the *Hansard* record.

Date petition presented: 10 May 2000

Presented by: Mr Toyne

Referred to: Minister for School Education

Date response received: 26 May 2000

Date response presented: 13 June 2000

Response:

The Department of Education has promptly responded to the community elders and parents through the Group School Principal informing them that a direct follow up to their request will be for the Group School Principal to visit and explore appropriate options with the community elders and parents. The visit will be undertaken prior to the end of Semester 1 of this school year.

The Group School Principal wrote to the elders and parents on 16 May 2000 acknowledging their request and foreshadowing an early meeting. He also requested the elders and parents to gather some relevant data in preparation for the meeting.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS **Pass all stages**

Mr PALMER (Leader of Government Business): Mr Speaker, I move so much of standing orders be suspended as would prevent the following bills passing through all stages at these sittings: The Miscellaneous (*Interpretation Act and Penalties Act*) Amendment Bill (Serial 237); Mining Amendment Bill (Serial 243); Petroleum Amendment Bill (Serial 244); Legal Practitioners Amendment Bill (Serial 242); Work Health Amendment Bill (Serial

236); Health Practitioners and Allied Professionals Registration Amendment Bill (Serial 227); Financial Regulations Agreement (Consequential Provisions) Bill (Serial 228); First Home Owner Grant Bill (Serial 229); Pay-roll Tax Amendment Bill (Serial 235); Stamp Duty Amendment Bill (Serial 240); Taxation (Administration) Amendment Bill (Serial 241); AustralAsia Railway (Special Provisions) Amendment Bill (Serial 238); and AustralAsia Railway Corporation Amendment Bill (Serial 239).

By way of explanation, you will be aware because of the proximity in time of these sittings to the last sittings, we will be unable to process these bills under the normal standing orders which require a time of one month from their introduction and delivery of the second reading speech, until their further debate by this parliament.

Motion agreed to.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE **Member for Arafura**

Ms MARTIN (Opposition Leader): Mr Speaker, I move that leave of absence be granted to the member for Arafura from Tuesday, 13 June 2000 to Thursday, 15 June 2000, and Tuesday, 20 June 2000 to Thursday, 22 June 2000, inclusive, due to his unexpected ill health.

Motion agreed to.

TABLED PAPER **Northern Territory Local Government** **Performance Indicators Report**

Mrs BRAHAM (Local Government): Mr Speaker, I rise to table the second edition of the Northern Territory Local Government Performance Indicators Report.

This report represents a successful consolidation of the reforms that I presented in the last sittings and highlights performance information data collected from many councils throughout the Territory. This report is a result of the voluntary and open participation of municipal and community government councils in implementing measures that will substantially improve the delivery of services in local government to all Territorians.

Performance indicators and benchmarking are important strategic initiatives underpinning the local government reform and development agenda. This is emphasised through the growing contribution that performance indicators make in enabling local government to deliver more effective and efficient services for all Territorians. Performance indicators assist councils in assessing their own performance,