

Madam Speaker Lambley took the Chair at 2.30 pm.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE
Member for Katherine

Mr EDINGTON (Leader of Government Business): Madam Speaker, I move that the Member for Katherine be granted leave of absence from the Chamber today due to ministerial business.

Leave granted.

MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR
Message No 16

Madam SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have received Message Number 16 from His Honour the Administrator notifying assent to the Bills passed in the May meetings of the Assembly. The message is dated 5 June 2026.

APPROPRIATION 2026–2027 BILL
Serial 63
TREASURY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL
Serial 64

Continued from 5 May 2026.

Madam SPEAKER: Honourable members, pursuant to the resolution of the Assembly on 6 May 220 following the tabling of the Estimates Committee report, the Assembly will have before it the question that the expenditure proposed in the Appropriation 2026–20127 Bill 2026, Serial 63 stand as printed and that the report the Estimate Committee be noted.

The following time limits apply to the debate on the committee's report: ministers, Leader of the Opposition and shadow minister, 20 minutes; any other member 10 minutes; and the maximum period for consideration shall be five hours. There are no extensions of time. If the debate is not concluded after five hours the question will be put without further debate. I call the Chairman of the committee, the Member for Drysdale.

Ms Uibo: Hear, hear, a great Chair.

Mr Kerle: Agreed.

Mr HOWE (Chair of Estimates Committee): Thank you, Opposition Leader and Member for Blain.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to table the report of the Estimates Committee and the associated minutes of proceedings on its consideration of estimates for proposed expenditure contained in the schedule to the Appropriation Bill 2026–27, the Treasury Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 and the activities, performance, practices and financial management of the Power and Water Corporation, Jacana Energy and Territory Generation.

This is the Legislative Assembly's 25th year of Estimates hearings. The Estimates process provides a valuable opportunity for members to ask ministers questions relating to agencies and programs being funded under the budget.'

The hearings worked effectively and provided members an opportunity to ask questions about any area of government. I thank members for the way they conducted themselves during the hearings and for allowing each other time to ask their questions of most interest.

The committee's report outlines the key lines of questioning that arose throughout the course of the hearings. During the hearings there were 136 questions that were taken on notice by ministers. Of these, 38 were answered during the course of the hearings. These question answers have been uploaded to the committee's webpage. I note that outstanding answers to the questions taken on notice must be received by the committee secretariat by 13 July 2026. Answers will be uploaded to the committee's webpage as they are received. Answers that are not received by the due date cannot be accepted or published by the committee.