



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Legislative Scrutiny Committee

Associated Minutes of Proceedings

Inquiry into the Sentencing Amendment (Murder) Bill 2026

March 2026





LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
15th Assembly

Legislative Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 30

12.00 pm, Thursday 5 February 2026
Litchfield Room

Present: Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Chair, Member for Wanguri
Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Drysdale
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston
Mr Chanston Paech MLA, Member for Gwoja
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Member for Fannie Bay

Secretariat: Candice Maclean, Executive Director Parliamentary Support
Katie Helme, Committee Secretary
Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Dr Will Dreyer, Senior Research Officer

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr Howe moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 29 of 18 November 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. BILL REFERRALS

The Committee considered the proposed Bill Inquiry Plan for the Electrical Safety Amendment Bill 2026, the Sentencing Amendment (Murder) Bill 2026, the Bail Amendment Bill 2026 and the Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport Legislation Amendment (Licensing) Bill 2026, and agreed to:

- a) Call for submissions to be received by Monday 16 February 2026.
- b) Invite representatives from the Attorney-General's Department to brief the Committee on the Sentencing Amendment (Murder) Bill 2026 and the Bail Amendment Bill 2026 at a public briefing from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm on Monday 9 February 2026.

3. NEXT MEETING

Public Briefing: 1.00 pm, Monday, 9 February 2026

Meeting closed at 12.20 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Oly Carlson'.

Mrs Oly Carlson MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
15th Assembly

Legislative Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 31

1.00 pm, Monday 9 February 2026
Litchfield Room

Present: Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Chair, Member for Wanguri
Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Drysdale
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston
Mr Chanston Paech MLA, Member for Gwoja
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Member for Fannie Bay

Secretariat: Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Katie Helme, Committee Secretary
Dr Will Dreyer, Senior Research Officer

1. PUBLIC BRIEFING: SENTENCING AMENDMENT (MURDER) BILL 2026

The Committee heard from the following witnesses:

Attorney-General's Department

Erin McAuley, Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Hannah Clee, Acting Director of Legislation and Legal Policy, Strategic Policy Coordination

The witnesses withdrew

2. PUBLIC BRIEFING: BAIL AMENDMENT BILL 2026

The Committee heard from the following witnesses:

Attorney-General's Department

Erin McAuley, Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Hannah Clee, Acting Director of Legislation and Legal Policy, Strategic Policy Coordination

The witnesses withdrew

3. NEXT MEETING

Deliberative Meeting: 1.00 pm, Wednesday, 18 February 2026

Meeting closed at 1.30 pm.

Mrs Oly Carlson MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
15th Assembly

Legislative Scrutiny Committee
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 32

1.00 pm, Wednesday 18 February 2026
Litchfield Room

- Present:** Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Drysdale
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston
Mr Chanston Paech MLA, Member for Gwoja
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Member for Fannie Bay
- Substitution:** Mr Andrew Mackay MLA, Member for Goyder for Mrs Oly Carlson MLA,
Chair, Member for Wanguri
- Secretariat:** Candice Maclean, Executive Director Parliamentary Support
Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Katie Helme, Committee Secretary
Dr Will Dreyer, Senior Research Officer
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1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Mrs Zio moved and Mr Paech seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 30 of 5 February 2026 and Meeting No. 31 of 9 February 2026 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted

3. BILL REFERRALS

Sentencing Amendment (Murder) Bill 2026

Mr Howe moved and Mr Paech seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of submission nos. 1 - 12, redacting personal information in all submissions such as signatures, personal addresses and phone numbers prior to publication.

Question put and passed.

Mr Howe moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The Committee's draft report recommends that the Bill be passed but highlights associated risks and mitigations the government can undertake to address such.

Question put and passed.

Electrical Safety Amendment Bill 2026

Mr Howe moved and Mr Paech seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of submission no. 1, redacting personal information such as signatures, personal addresses and phone numbers prior to publication.

Question put and passed.

Mr Howe moved and Mr Mackay seconded that:

The Committee adopt the 'No Issues report' *Inquiry into the Electrical Safety Amendment Bill 2026* to be tabled out of session with the Speaker on Friday 20 February 2026 pursuant to Standing Order 200(4), for subsequent tabling in the Assembly on Tuesday 10 March 2026.

Question put and passed.

Bail Amendment Bill 2026

Mr Howe moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of submission nos. 1 and 2, redacting personal information such as signatures, personal addresses and phone numbers prior to publication.

Question put and passed.

Mr Howe moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The Committee's draft report recommends that the Bill be passed and note the issues raised in submissions.

Question put and passed.

Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport Legislation Amendment (Licensing) Bill 2026

Mr Howe moved and Mr Paech seconded that:

The Committee not accept the submission from the Blue Taxi Company as it does not address any of the provisions of the Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport Legislation Amendment (Licensing) Bill 2026.

Question put and passed.

Justine Davis moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

The Committee Secretary write to the Blue Taxi Company to advise that the Committee resolved not to publish their submission as the matters raised go beyond the scope of the current Bill and suggest that they forward the submission to the Minister for Logistics and Infrastructure for his consideration.

Question put and passed.

Mr Howe moved and Justine Davis seconded that:


The Committee adopt the 'No Issues report' *Inquiry into the Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport Legislation Amendment (Licensing) Bill 2026* to be tabled out of session with the Speaker on Friday 20 February 2026 pursuant to Standing Order 200(4), for subsequent tabling in the Assembly on Tuesday 10 March 2026.

Questions put and passed.

4. NEXT MEETING

Deliberative: 2.00 pm, Monday, 2 March 2026

Meeting closed at 2.10 pm.



Mrs Oly Carlson MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
15th Assembly

Legislative Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 33

2.00 pm, Monday 2 March 2026
Litchfield Room

- Present:** Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Chair, Member for Wanguri
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston
Mr Chanston Paech MLA, Member for Gwoja
- Substitution:** Mr Andrew Mackay MLA, Member for Goyder for Mrs Laurie Zio MLA,
Member for Fannie Bay
Mr Brian O’Gallagher MLA, Member for Karama for Mr Clinton Howe
MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Drysdale
- Secretariat:** Candice Maclean, Executive Director Parliamentary Support
Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Katie Helme, Committee Secretary
Dr Will Dreyer, Senior Research Officer

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Mr Paech moved and Mr Mackay seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 32 of 18 February 2026 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. BILL REFERRALS

Sentencing Amendment (Murder) Bill 2026

Mrs Carlson moved and Mr Mackay seconded that:

The Committee adopt the Chair’s draft report *Inquiry into the Sentencing Amendment (Murder) Bill 2026* as amended, to be tabled out of session with the Speaker on Wednesday 4 March 2026 pursuant to SO200(4) for subsequent tabling in the Assembly on Tuesday 10 March 2026.

3 for 2 against

Question put and passed.

Bail Amendment Bill 2026

Mr Mackay moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that:

The Committee adopt the Chair’s draft report *Inquiry into the Bail Amendment Bill 2026*, to be tabled out of session with the Speaker on Wednesday 4 March 2026 pursuant to SO200(4) for subsequent tabling in the Assembly on Tuesday 10 March 2026.

Question put and passed.

3. NEXT MEETING

Deliberative: 12.00 pm, Thursday, 12 March 2026 to be confirmed

Meeting closed at 2.12 pm.

Mrs Oly Carlson MLA
Chair