
NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

of the

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

No. 97

Tuesday 15 September 2015

1. MEETING

The Assembly met at 10am. The Speaker, the Honourable Kezia Purick took the Chair.

2. PRAYERS

3. VISITORS

The Speaker advised Honourable Members of the presence in the gallery of:

1. Students from Girraween Primary School;
2. Bruce and Denise Morcombe; and
3. Former Chief Minister Hon Marshall Perron and family.

On behalf of all Members the Speaker extended a warm welcome to the visitors.

4. SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

The Speaker made a statement addressing the reign of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

5. REORDER OF BUSINESS – MOTION AGREED TO

Mr Elferink (Leader of Government Business) pursuant to Standing Order 89 moved - to reorder the conduct of business today to allow me to immediately give notice for a bill to fulfil the Government's commitment to the Morcombe family concerning convicted child sex offenders and, that otherwise the routine of business remains as programmed to allow for all other notices to be given today at 2.00pm.

Debate ensued.

Question – put and passed.

6. NOTICES

The following notice was given:

1. Mr Elferink (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) will present today a bill entitled – Sex Offender and Child Homicide Offender Public Website (Daniel's Law) Bill 2015 (Serial 139).

7. SEX OFFENDER AND CHILD HOMICIDE OFFENDER PUBLIC WEBSITE (DANIEL'S LAW) BILL 2015 (SERIAL 139)

Mr Elferink (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice), by leave, presented a Bill for an Act to establish the Sex Offender and Child Homicide Offender Public Website, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Elferink moved - That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Paper Tabled: Mr Elferink laid upon the Table the Explanatory Statement (Paper 1448).

On the motion of Ms Walker (Member for Nhulunbuy) debate was adjourned.

8. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT – SETTING THE AGENDA FOR THE YEAR AHEAD – STATEMENT NOTED

Resumption of debate on the question - That the Assembly take note of the Statement.

Debate ensued.

Question – put and passed.

9. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP – MOTION AGREED TO

Mr Elferink (Leader of Government Business) moved – That the following committee membership changes be adopted:

The Member for Grotorex is discharged and the Member for Arafura be appointed to the Public Accounts Committee.

Question – put and passed.

10. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT – PILLARS OF JUSTICE – MOTION TO NOTE

Mr Elferink (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) made a statement regarding the Government's Pillars of Justice strategy.

Mr Elferink moved – That the Assembly take note of the Statement.

Debate ensued.

Debate suspended.

Suspension of sittings: The sitting of the Assembly was suspended between 12 noon and 2.00pm.

11. PETITIONS

Mr Chandler (Member for Brennan), by leave, presented Petition No. 50 from 145 petitioners, including 14 electronic petitioners, not conforming with Standing Orders relating to conserving the 'green belt' of Farrar (Paper 1451).

Petition read.

Mrs Finocchiaro (Member for Drysdale), by leave, presented Petition No. 51 from 1076 petitioners, not conforming with Standing Orders relating to swimming and water safety lessons as part of primary school programs (Paper 1452).

Petition read.

12. NOTICES

The following notices were given:

1. Ms Manison (Member for Wanguri) will present on the next General Business day a bill entitled – Public Information Amendment Bill 2015 (Serial 140).

2. Mr Elferink (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) will present on the next sitting day a bill entitled – Misuse of Drugs Amendment Bill 2015 (Serial 136).

3. Mr Elferink (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) will move on the next sitting day - That so much of standing orders be suspended as would prevent the Misuse of Drugs Amendment Bill 2015 (Serial 136) passing through all stages during these sittings.

4. Mr Elferink (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) will present on the next sitting day a bill entitled – Information Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2015 (Serial 137).

5. Ms Fyles (Member for Nightcliff) will move on the next General Business day - That notwithstanding anything in the Standing or Sessional Orders:

(a) The Public Accounts Committee is to comprise six Members including two Government Members, two Opposition Members and two Members who are not Members of the Government or the Opposition;

(b) The three Government Members be discharged from the Public Accounts Committee, and in their place be appointed the Member for Araluen and two Members to be nominated to the Speaker in writing by the Government Whip; and

(c) The Chair of the Public Accounts Committee is not to be a Member of the Government or the Opposition.

This resolution is to have effect for the remainder of this session, whether or not the Assembly agrees to the Leader of Government Business' motion of 25 August 2015 adopting new Standing Orders.

13. QUESTIONS

- 2.03 Mr Gunner to Chief Minister
- 2.07 Mr Barrett to Chief Minister
- 2.11 Ms Fyles to Chief Minister
- 2.16 Mr Barrett to Chief Minister
- 2.19 Mr Gunner to Minister for Lands and Planning
- 2.25 Mrs Finocchiaro to Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
- 2.28 Ms Moss to Minister for Housing
- 2.33 Mr Barrett to Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services
- 2.37 Mr Wood to Minister for Local Government and Community Services
- 2.40 Mr Conlan to Minister for Correctional Services
- 2.44 Mrs Lambley to Chief Minister
- 2.49 Mr Kurrupuwu to Minister for Mines and Energy
- 2.53 Ms Walker to Minister for Women's Policy
- 2.55 Mr Conlan to Minister for Transport

Mr Elferink (Leader of Government Business) asked that further questions be placed on the Written Question Paper.

14. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT – PILLARS OF JUSTICE – STATEMENT NOTED

Resumption of debate on the question - That the Assembly take note of the Statement.

Debate resumed.

Extension of Time: On the motion of Mr Vowles (Member for Johnston), Ms Walker (Member for Nhulunbuy) was granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

Extension of Time: On the motion of Mr Elferink (Member for Port Darwin), Mr Styles (Member for Sanderson) was granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

Extension of Time: On the motion of Mr Westra van Holthe (Member for Katherine), Mr Wood (Member for Nelson) was granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

Extension of Time: On the motion of Mr Westra van Holthe, Mr Chandler (Member for Brennan) was granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

Extension of Time: On the motion of Mr Elferink, Mr Westra van Holthe was granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

Question – put and passed.

15. LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE – LEAVE NOT GRANTED

Mr Wood (Member for Nelson) sought leave of the Assembly to move a motion to amend the Terms of Reference of the Public Accounts Committee regarding the funding of Rugby League in the Northern Territory.

Leave not granted.

16. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS – MOTION AGREED TO

Mr Wood (Member for Nelson) moved – That so much of Standing Orders be suspended that would prevent me from immediately moving a motion regarding the Terms of Reference for the Public Account Committee inquiry regarding funding of rugby league facilities.

Debate ensued.

Question – put and passed.

17. AMENDMENT TO TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE INQUIRY – MOTION AGREED TO

Mr Wood (Member for Nelson) moved – That the Assembly's reference to the Public Accounts Committee regarding the funding of rugby league facilities in Darwin agreed on 26 August 2015 be amended by inserting after 'The hearings would be public' the words:

'unless the Committee agrees to a request from the witness to go into private session to deal with a matter of a confidential nature.'

Question – put and passed.

18. PAPER TABLED - OMBUDSMAN NT INVESTIGATION REPORT - 'LET THERE BE LIGHT' ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Mr Giles (Chief Minister) made a statement and laid on the Table – Ombudsman NT Investigation Report 'Let there be light' Essential Services - Response by Department of Housing and Power and Water to widespread incidents of damage to electricity meters in a remote community (Paper 1453).

19. PAPERS

The Speaker tabled the following Papers –

1. Remuneration Tribunal Determination, Travel Report, Member for Wanguri, Ms Nicole Manison, travelled to Alice Springs to attend a community meeting on early childhood development policy, between 19th - 20th August 2015, pursuant to clause 4.12, dated 31 August 2015 (Paper 1454).

2. Remuneration Tribunal Determination, Travel Report, Member for Arnhem, Ms Larisa Lee, to attend meetings with NLC, NAAJA and NAILSMA, between 25th – 26th May 2015, pursuant to clause 4.12, dated 2 September 2015 (Paper 1455).
3. Remuneration Tribunal Determination, Travel Report, Member for Arnhem, Ms Larisa Lee, to attend Merrepen Arts Festival between 29th May – 1st June 2015, pursuant to clause 4.12, dated 2 September 2015 (Paper 1456).
4. Remuneration Tribunal Determination, Travel Report, Member for Namatjira, Ms Alison Anderson, to attend 30th Anniversary of Barunga Festival, between 5th – 8th June 2015, pursuant to clause 4.12, dated 7 September 2015 (Paper 1457).
5. Remuneration Tribunal Determination, Travel Report, Member for Arafura, Mr Francis Kurrupuwu, to attend meeting with Tiwi Island Community stakeholder, Munupi Family Trust, between 5th – 6th June 2015, pursuant to clause 4.12, not dated (Paper 1458).
6. Remuneration Tribunal Determination, Travel Report, Member for Fong Lim, Mr David Tollner, to attend the Australian Institute of Company Directors course in Sydney, between 26th - 31st July 2015, pursuant to clause 4.12, dated 26 August 2015 (Paper 1459).
7. Remuneration Tribunal Determination, Travel Report, Member for Goyder Ms Kezia Purick, to attend the Annual Presiding Officers' Conference in Hobart, also travelled to Melbourne and Sydney, July 2015, pursuant to clause 4.12, dated 27 August 2015 (Paper 1460).
8. Remuneration Tribunal Determination, Travel Report, Member for Greatorex, Mr Matt Conlan, travel to Darwin to undertake Parliamentary work in Darwin 6th - 7th July 2015, pursuant to clause 4.12, not dated (Paper 1461).
9. Remuneration Tribunal Determination, Travel Report, Member for Johnston, Mr Ken Vowles, to travel to Melbourne for the APPEA Conference and exhibition between 16th - 22nd May 2015, pursuant to clause 4.12, 21 August 2015 (Paper 1462).

20. ADJOURNMENT

Mr Giles (Chief Minister) moved - That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Visitors: The Speaker advised Honourable Members of the presence in the gallery of members of the Darwin East African Community leaders.

On behalf of all Members the Speaker extended a warm welcome to the visitors.

Paper Tabled: Mr McCarthy (Member for Barkly), by leave, laid upon the Table – Commonwealth Parliamentary Association – Small Branches Committee Workshop, Douglas, Isle of Man, 17th - 21st August 2015 – Travel Report (Paper 1463)

The Assembly adjourned at 7.28pm until Wednesday 16 September 2015 at 10.00am.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been Tabled on 15 September 2015 -

Annual Report 2013/2014:

National Environment Protection Council (NEPC), 2013/2014 (Paper 1449)

Regulations 2015:

No. 21, Building Amendment Regulations 2015 (Paper 1450)

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended the sittings.

MICHAEL TATHAM

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly