



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Legislative Scrutiny Committee

Associated Minutes of Proceedings
Inquiry into the
Territory Coordinator Bill 2025

March 2025



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Legislative Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 3

12.08 pm, Thursday 13 February

Litchfield Room

Present:	Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Chair, Member for Wanguri Mr Andrew Mackay, Deputy Chair, Member for Goyder Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Member for Drysdale Mr Chanston Paech MLA, Member for Gwoja
Secretariat:	Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr Mackay moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 2 of 28 November 2024 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted

3. BILL REFERRALS

The Committee noted the proposed Bill inquiry plan for Bills referred during the February sittings and agreed to the following actions:

Committee Secretary to save copies of submissions referred Bills in the Bill Inquiry sub-folders in the Members Access Drive as they are received.

Territory Coordinator Bill 2025 (Serial 17)

- Key Stakeholder register as amended to incorporate Mr Paech's additions agreed to.

Defamation Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 (Serial 13)

- Draft Key Stakeholder register noted – Members to provide secretariat with any additional stakeholders by 3.30 pm, Thursday 13 February 2025.
- Departmental representatives to be requested to brief the committee on the Defamation Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 at a public briefing at 2.00 pm, Wednesday 19 February 2025.

Justine Davis moved and Mr Mackay seconded that:

The committee acknowledge the prompt work of the committee secretariat to assist committee members given the short timeframe.

Question put and passed.

4. NEXT MEETING

Public Briefing: 2.00 pm, Wednesday 19 February 2025.

Meeting closed at 12.45 pm.


Mrs Oly Carlson MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Legislative Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 5

2.00 pm, Thursday 20 February 2025

Litchfield Room

Present:	Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Chair, Member for Wanguri Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Member for Drysdale via TEAMS Mr Chanston Paech MLA, Member for Gwoja via TEAMS
Apologies:	Mr Andrew Mackay, Deputy Chair, Member for Goyder
Secretariat:	Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr Paech moved and Justin Davis seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 3 of 13 February and Meeting No. 4 of 19 February 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted

3. CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS

Mrs Carlson moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

The committee authorise submissions 1 – 302 for publication, with the exception of submission nos. 3, 62, 78, 79, 80, 118, 128, 189 and 221.

Question put and passed.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS – TERRITORY COORDINATOR BILL 2025

The Committee agreed to hold public hearings on the Territory Coordinator Bill on Wednesday 26 February from 8.30 am – 5.00 pm, and Thursday 27 February and that the following individuals and organisations be invited to appear before the committee:

- Nhulunbuy Corporation
- NT Planning Commission
- Keep Top End Coasts Health
- Andy Peart – Private Citizen
- Environment Centre NT
- Frack Free NT
- Arid Lands Environment Centre
- City of Palmerston
- Justin Tutty – Private Citizen
- Australian Energy Producers
- Larrakia Development Corporation
- Heritage Council NT
- Catherine McLeish – Private Citizen
- Aboriginal Peak Organisations NT

- Protect Big Rivers
- Environmental Defenders Office
- Northern Land Council
- Local Government Association NT
- Minerals Council of Australia NT Division
- Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation
- Central Land Council
- INPEX
- Utilities Commission of the Northern Territory
- Australian Institute of Architects
- Department of Mining and Energy
- Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

5. NEXT MEETINGS

Public Hearings:

8.30 am – 5.00 pm Wednesday 26 February 2025

8.30 am – 3.00 pm Thursday 27 February 2025

Meeting closed at 4.10 pm.



Mrs Oly Carlson MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Legislative Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No .6

8.30 am, Wednesday 26 February 2025

Litchfield Room

Present: Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Chair, Member for Wanguri via TEAMS
Mr Andrew Mackay, Deputy Chair, Member for Goyder
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston
Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Member for Drysdale
Mr Chanston Paech MLA, Member for Gwoja

Secretariat: Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

1. PUBLIC HEARING – TERRITORY COORDINATOR BILL 2025

The Committee heard from the following witnesses:

Nhulunbuy Corporation

Shane Whitten: Chief Executive Officer
The witness withdrew.

Keep Top End Coasts Healthy

Adele Pedder: Protected Areas Manager
The witness withdrew.

Environment Centre NT

Bree Aherns: Acting Co-Executive Director
Naish Gawen: Policy and Research Lead
The witnesses withdrew.

Frack Free NT

Peter Callender: Community Organiser
Louis Boyle-Bryant: Top End Regional Campaigner
The witnesses withdrew.

Arid Lands Environment Centre

Alex Vaughan: Policy Advocacy Coordinator
Hannah Ekin: Frack Free Campaign Coordinator
The witnesses withdrew.

City of Palmerston:

Athina Pascoe-Bell: Mayor
Nadine Nilon: Interim Chief Executive Officer
The witnesses withdrew.

Private Citizen

Justin Tutty
The witness withdrew.

Australian Energy Producers

David Slama: Director Northern Territory & South Australia
Aaron Heugh: Senior Policy Advisor

Questions Taken on Notice

1. What is the potential revenue per year from gas in the NT?
2. Did anyone from your organisation meet with the CLP prior to the drafting of this Bill?

3. Did your submission to the consultation on the Bill make recommendations regarding changes to the exposure draft of the Bill? **Note:** Mr Slama undertook to provide the committee with a copy of AEP's submission of 17 January 2025 on the exposure draft of the Bill.
4. Can you provide some tangible examples or a concrete example of a delay that you can describe to us that you think this legislation will address and, if there is a delay, what you can attribute that to.

The witnesses withdrew.

Heritage Council NT

Randle Walker: Chairperson

The witness withdrew.

Private Citizen

Catherine McLeish

The witness withdrew.

Environmental Defenders Office

Elanor Fenge: Managing Lawyer NT/SA Region

Rufus Coffield-Feith: Senior Solicitor

Natalie Czpaski: Senior Solicitor

The witnesses withdrew.

Protect Big Rivers

Dr Samantha Phelan: Member

Cecelia Lake: Member

Miliwanga Wurrben: Elder Big Rivers Region

The witnesses withdrew.

2. NEXT MEETING

Public Hearing: 9.00 am, Thursday 27 February 2025.

Meeting closed at 4.30 pm.



**Mrs Oly Carlson MLA
Chair**



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Legislative Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 7

9.00 am, Thursday 27 February 2025

Litchfield Room

Present: Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Chair, Member for Wanguri via TEAMS
Mr Andrew Mackay, Deputy Chair, Member for Goyder
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston
Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Member for Drysdale
Mr Chanston Paech MLA, Member for Gwoja

Secretariat: Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

1. PUBLIC HEARING – TERRITORY COORDINATOR BILL 2025

The Committee heard from the following witnesses:

Local Government Association of the Northern Territory

Mary Watson: Chief Executive Officer

Sarah Zaharie: Director Public Affairs

Question Taken on Notice

1. Is it a position of LGANT that you would like it in the legislation for the Local Government to be exempted from inclusion in the Schedule of Laws?

The witnesses withdrew.

Minerals Council of Australia – NT Division

Cathryn Tilmouth: Executive Director Northern Australia

Dr Amber Jarrett: Principal Policy Advisor NT

Question Taken on Notice

1. Can you advise the committee of the companies that you represent in the Northern Territory?

The witnesses withdrew

Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation

Michael Rotumah: Chief Executive Officer

The witness withdrew.

Central Land Council

Barbara Shaw: Deputy Chair

Georgia Stewart: Policy Officer

Su Sze Ting: Senior Lawyer

The witnesses withdrew.

Nurrdalinji Native Title Aboriginal Corporation

Samuel Janama Sandy: Chairperson

Greg McIntyre SC: Legal Representative, Native Title and Aboriginal Heritage

Question Taken on Notice

1. Can you give any examples of when decisions have been rushed and the negative consequences of them?

The witnesses withdrew.

Northern Land Council

Yuseph Deen: Chief Executive Officer

David Astalosh: General Manager Governance, Strategy and Communication

Question Taken on Notice

1. What is your consultation process and obtaining free, prior and informed consent?
The witnesses withdrew.

Australian Institute of Architects

Miriam Wallace: President NT Chapter

Karen Relp: Manager NT Chapter

Jo Rees: Ajar Architects

The witnesses withdrew.

Question Taken on Notice

1. What is the position of the Institute of Architects on the inclusion of the *Heritage Act* in the Bill?

Department of Mining and Energy

Alister Trier: Chief Executive

James Pratt: Senior Executive Director Energy Development

Brett Easton: Director Policy and Reform

Questions Taken on Notice

1. Did your agency recommend that the previous clause 14 of the original exposure draft of the Bill be removed?

The witnesses withdrew.

Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Tom Leeming: Deputy Chief Executive Officer Policy, Reform and Regions

Margaret Close: Senior Executive Director Strategic Policy and Delivery

Stuart Knowles: Interim Territory Coordinator

Questions Taken on Notice


1. How many submissions to the consultation were in support of the Bill and how many were against it
2. What recommendations were taken on board from who in relation to the two versions of the Bill?
3. Can you list which NTG agencies and independent authorities you met with in relation to developing the Bill?
4. Can you give us concrete examples of a delay that you think this Bill will remedy?

The witnesses withdrew.

2. NEXT MEETING

9.00 am, Monday 3 March 2025.

Meeting closed at 2.30 pm.



**Mrs Oly Carlson MLA
Chair**



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Legislative Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 8

9.00 am, Monday 3 March 2025

Litchfield Room

Present: Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Chair, Member for Wanguri
Mr Andrew Mackay MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Goyder
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston
Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Member for Drysdale
Mr Chanston Paech MLA, Member for Gwoja via TEAMS

Secretariat: Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Justin Davis moved and Mr Mackay seconded that:

The Minutes of Meetings No. 5 of 20 February, Meeting No. 6 of 26 February and Meeting No. 7 of 27 February 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted

3. CHAIR'S DRAFT REPORT – DEFAMATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025

Mr Mackay moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

The Committee adopt the 'No issues' report *Inquiry into the Defamation Legislation Amendment Bill 2025* to be tabled out of session with the Speaker on Wednesday 5 March 2025 pursuant to Standing Order 200(4), for subsequent tabling in the Assembly on Tuesday 18 March 2025.

Question put and passed.

4. PRIVATE BRIEFING – LEGAL ADVICE ON THE TERRITORY COORDINATOR BILL 2025

The Committee was briefed by its independent legal counsel, Professor Ned Aughterson, on the Territory Coordinator Bill 2025.

5. CONSIDERATION OF EVIDENCE – TERRITORY COORDINATOR BILL 2025

In considering the evidence, the following resolutions were considered:

Justine Davis moved and Mr Paech seconded that:

Clause 8: Primary principle of Act. That subclause (a) be amended to read 'ecologically sustainable development for the Territory or a region of the Territory.'

2 for, 3 against

Question negatived.

Mr Paech moved and Ms Davis seconded that:

Clause 11: Appointment of Territory Coordinator. That the Bill be amended to remove clause 11 and reinstate clause 78: Appointment of Territory Coordinator and clause 79: Eligibility for appointment from the exposure draft of the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Justine Davis moved and Mr Paech seconded that:

Division 4: Exemption Notices be removed from the Bill.

2 for 3 against.

Question negatived.

Justine Davis moved and Mr Paech seconded that:

Clause 79: Recommendation to Minister. That clause 2(b) be amended to read 'must consult with any other person the Coordinator considers may be affected by the proposed exemption notice.

3 for 1 against.

Question put and passed.

Justine Davis moved and Mr Paech seconded that:

Clause 82: Tabling and Disallowance be amended to provide that exemption notices be tabled in the Assembly prior to their implementation.

2 for 3 against.

Question negatived.

Mr Paech moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

Clause 95: Limitation on review or appeal be amended to include a merits review process.

2 for 3 against.

Question negatived.

Mr Howe moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that:

The Bill be amended to include to require that an independent review of the Act's operation after 5 years of commencement to assess the implementation, performance and outcomes of the legislation.

4 for 1 against.

Question put and passed.

Justine Davis moved and Mr Paech seconded that:

The *Heritage Act 2011* be removed from the Schedule of Acts that are Scheduled laws.

2 for 3 against.

Question negatived.

Mr Paech moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

The Bill be amended to provide that marine parks, conservation areas, Northern Territory parks and reserves, Indigenous protected areas and Sacred Sites be exempt from the operation of the Act.

4 for 1 against.

Question put and passed.

6. NEXT MEETING

3.00 pm, Monday 10 March 2025

Meeting closed at 1.10 pm.



Mrs Oly Carlson MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Legislative Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 9

3.00 pm, Monday 10 March 2025

Litchfield Room

Present: Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Chair, Member for Wanguri
Mr Andrew Mackay MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Goyder
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston
Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Member for Drysdale via TEAMS
Mr Chanston Paech MLA, Member for Gwoja via TEAMS

Secretariat: Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Mr Mackay moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that:

The Minutes of Meetings No 8 of 3 March 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted

3. CHAIR'S DRAFT REPORT – TERRITORY COORDINATOR BILL 2025

Mrs Carlson moved and Mr Mackay seconded that:

The Committee adopt the Chair's draft report: *Inquiry into the Territory Coordinator Bill 2025*, as amended, to be tabled out of session with the Speaker on Wednesday 12 March 2025 pursuant to SO 200(4), for subsequent tabling in the Assembly on Tuesday 18 March 2025.

3 for, 2 against

Question put and passed.

4. NEXT MEETING

12.00 pm, Thursday 20 March 2025 – To be confirmed

Meeting closed at 4.00 pm

Mrs Oly Carlson MLA
Chair