



COUNCIL OF TERRITORY CO-OPERATION

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- (1) That the Legislative Assembly establish a Sessional Committee to be known as 'The Council of Territory Co-Operation';

Purpose of the committee

- (2) That the committee facilitate:
- (a) greater levels of collaboration in the governance of the Northern Territory;
 - (b) enhance parliamentary democracy by providing a strong role for members of the Legislative Assembly who are not members of the executive government, particularly on matters of common concern;
 - (c) expand involvement in important Northern Territory initiatives and projects;
 - (d) provide new avenues for Territorians to have input through the Legislative Assembly into the government of the Northern Territory; and
 - (e) provide a road map for tackling some specific issues currently facing the Territory.
- (3) The committee consist of up to six members including two government members, two opposition members and at least one independent member to be appointed by a subsequent resolution and that unless otherwise ordered, Mr Wood be appointed Chairman of the committee.

Duties of the committee

- (4) That the committee inquire into, consider, make recommendations and report to the Assembly from time to time on the following matters of public importance:
- (a) the strategic indigenous housing and infrastructure program (SIHIP);
 - (b) local government reform;
 - (c) the planning scheme and the establishment of Weddell;
 - (d) a working future (including homelands policy);
 - (e) any other matter of public importance referred to it by the Legislative Assembly; and

- (f) any matter of public importance concerned with the administration of matters of which ministers of the Territory have executive authority pursuant to the provisions of the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act* and Regulations (Commonwealth).
- (5) That the provisions of paragraph (4) have effect notwithstanding the terms of reference of other Assembly committees.
- (6) That the committee determine appropriate timeframes and work plans and the priority for consideration of matters referred to it;
- (7) That, notwithstanding paragraph (4) above, the committee report to the assembly as soon as possible after 30 June each year on its activities during the preceding financial year;
- (8) That in the event of an equality of voting, the member chairing the committee shall have a casting vote;
- (9) That the committee have power to appoint subcommittees and to refer to any such subcommittee any matter which the committee is empowered to examine.
- (10) That three members of the committee constitute a quorum of the committee and two members of a subcommittee constitute a quorum of the subcommittee.
- (11) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to send for persons, papers and records, to adjourn from place to place, to meet and transact business in public or private session and to sit during any adjournment of the Assembly.
- (12) That the committee shall be empowered to print from day to day such papers and evidence as may be ordered by it and, unless otherwise ordered by the committee, a daily *Hansard* shall be published of such proceedings of the committee as take place in public.
- (13) That the committee have leave to report from time to time and any member of the committee has power to add a protest or dissent to any report.
- (14) That any report tabled by the committee which recommends action by the government, shall within three months from the date of tabling of such report generate an information paper in response to the report and that the Assembly has the capacity to take note of the response.
- (15) That unless otherwise ordered by the committee, all documents received by the committee during its inquiry shall remain in the custody of the Assembly provided that, on the application of a department or person, any document, if not likely to be further required, may, in the Speaker's discretion, be returned to the department or person from whom it was obtained.
- (16) That members of the public and representatives of the news media may attend and report any public sessions of the committee, unless otherwise ordered by the committee.

- (17) That the committee may authorise the broadcasting of public hearings of the committee under such rules as the Speaker considers appropriate.
- (18) That the committee shall be provided with all necessary staff, facilities and resources and shall be empowered, with the approval of the Speaker, to appoint persons with specialist knowledge for the purposes of the committee.
- (19) That the committee be empowered to consider the minutes of proceedings, evidence taken and records of committees established in previous Assemblies; and
- (20) That the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with Standing Orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the Standing Orders.