



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Legislative Scrutiny Committee

Associated Minutes of Proceedings

Inquiry into the Firearms Amendment Bill 2026

April 2026





LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
15th Assembly

Legislative Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 34

12.00 pm, Thursday 19 March 2026
Litchfield Room

- Present:** Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Chair, Member for Wanguri
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Member for Fannie Bay
- Substitution:** Mr Mathew Kerle MLA, Member for Goyder for Mr Clinton Howe MLA,
Deputy Chair, Member for Drysdale
Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura for Mr Chanston Paech
MLA, Member for Gwoja
- 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

Mrs Carlson moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 33 of 2 March 2026 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. BILL REFERRALS

The Committee considered the proposed Bill Inquiry Plan for the Mineral Titles Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 (Serial 56); Pipelines and Petroleum Legislation Amendment (Industry Development) Bill 2026 (Serial 57); Criminal Procedure Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 (Serial 58); Racing and Wagering Amendment Bill 2026 (Serial 59); Heritage Amendment Bill 2026 (Serial 60); Firearms Amendment Bill 2026 (Serial 61); and the Liquor Legislation Amendment (Fast Track Approvals) Bill 2026 (Serial 62), and agreed to:

- a) Call for submissions to be received by Friday 27 March 2026.
- b) Invite departmental representatives to brief the Committee on each of the referred Bills at a public briefing from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm on Tuesday 24 March 2026.

3. NEXT MEETING

Public Briefing: 9.00 am to 3.00 pm, Tuesday 24 March 2026.

Meeting closed at 12.22 pm.

Mrs Oly Carlson MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
15th Assembly

Legislative Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 35

9.00 am, Tuesday 24 March 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
Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

1. PUBLIC BRIEFINGS – BILL REFERRALS

The Committee heard from the following witnesses:

Mineral Titles Legislation Amendment Bill 2026

Anne Tan: Acting Chief Executive Officer, Department of Mining and Energy

Simone Symonds: Director Mineral Titles, Mining Development

Kathleen Davis: Executive Director Mining Division, Department of Lands, Planning and Environment

Questions Taken on Notice

1. The Committee has identified several other issues regarding the Explanatory Statement, including:
 - a. an incorrect reference to section 27 in clause 21
 - b. no explanation of the effect of section 57A inserted by clause 25
 - c. an incorrect naming of the Mineral Royalty Act 1982 in clause 27
 - d. failure to mention inserted clauses 135B-D in the heading of clause 47.
2. Can you clarify whether clause 103 amending section 131 seeks to amend section 1341(1) or 131(3)?

The witnesses withdrew.

Pipelines and Petroleum Legislation Amendment (Industry Development) Bill 2026

James Pratt: Senior Executive Director, Energy Development, Department of Mining and Energy

Emily Collard: Director Regulatory Reform, Energy Development, Department of Mining and Energy

The witnesses withdrew.

Criminal Procedure Legislation Amendment Bill 2026

Janet Hanigan: Executive Director, Strategic Policy Coordination, Attorney-General's Department

Jane Bochman: Senior Policy Lawyer, Legislation and Legal Policy, Attorney-General's Department

Question Taken on Notice

1. Can you provide to the Committee concerns from the working group about this Bill that were not addressed or reflected in the Bill?

The witnesses withdrew.

Liquor Legislation Amendment (Fast Track Approvals) Bill 2026

Melissa Garde: Executive Director, Liquor, Racing and Gaming, Department of Tourism and Hospitality

The witness withdrew.

Racing and Wagering Amendment Bill 2026

Melissa Garde: Executive Director, Liquor, Racing and Gaming, Department of Tourism and Hospitality

Shaun Cox: Senior Policy Officer, Licensing NT, Department of Tourism and Hospitality

Questions Taken on Notice

1. The Schedule to the Bill seeks to omit the phrase 'any complainant and' from section 226(3). Can you explain the effect of this amendment?
2. What data was relied on to establish the two year timeframe for complaints?

The witnesses withdrew.

Heritage Amendment Bill 2026

Joanne Townsend: Chief Executive Officer, Department of Lands, Planning and Environment

Lauren Townsend: Acting Executive Director, Environment and Heritage, Department of Lands, Planning and Environment

Dr David Steinberg: Director, Heritage Branch, Department of Lands, Planning and Environment

The witnesses withdrew.

Firearms Amendment Bill 2026

Travis Wurst: Acting Deputy Commissioner, NT Police Force

Beth Nolan: Acting Executive Director, Police Legal, NT Police Force

Jess Readman: Acting Director, Police Legal, NT Police Force

Kiran McLaren: Senior Lawyer, NT Police Force

Questions Taken on Notice

1. Regarding clause 10, there is a similar offence provision in the *Firearms Act 1996* (NSW) which sets out specific defences for a person accused of possessing a digital blueprint, including if the person did not know they possessed the blueprint or they took steps to get rid of it.
 - a. Was the inclusion of specific defences considered in drafting this Bill? If not, why?
 - b. Do you foresee any risks that may arise from omitting any defences?
2. Can you provide detail of regular compliance checks as would be relevant to this bill?
3. Could you provide the process for compliance and safety checks when people are buying ammunition both from the Territory and interstate?

The witnesses withdrew.

2. NEXT MEETING

Deliberative Meeting, 10.00 am, Wednesday 1 April 2026.

Meeting closed at 3.00 pm.



Mrs Oly Carlson MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
15th Assembly

Legislative Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 36

10.00 am, Wednesday, 1 April 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
Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Justine Davis moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 34 of 19 March 2026 and Meeting No. 35 of 24 March be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr Howe moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of the Answers to Questions Taken on Notice.

Question put and passed.

Mineral Titles Legislation Amendment Bill 2026

Mr Howe moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of Submissions No. 1-9, redacting personal information such as signatures, personal addresses and phone numbers prior to publication.

Question put and passed.

Pipelines and Petroleum Legislation Amendment (Industry Development) Bill 2026

Justine Davis moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of Submissions No. 1-20, redacting personal information such as signatures, personal addresses and phone numbers prior to publication.

Question put and passed.

Criminal Procedure Legislation Amendment Bill 2026

Justine Davis moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of Submissions No. 1-6, redacting personal information such as signatures, personal addresses and phone numbers prior to publication.

Question put and passed.

Racing and Wagering Amendment Bill 2026

Mr Howe moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of Submissions No. 1-6, redacting personal information such as signatures, personal addresses and phone numbers prior to publication.

Question put and passed.

Heritage Amendment Bill 2026

Justine Davis moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of Submissions No. 1-10, redacting personal information such as signatures, personal addresses and phone numbers prior to publication.

Question put and passed.

Firearms Amendment Bill 2026

Justine Davis moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of Submissions No. 1-8, redacting personal information such as signatures, personal addresses and phone numbers prior to publication.

Question put and passed.

Liquor Licensing Amendment (Fast Track Approvals) Bill 2026

Justine Davis moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of Submissions No. 1-8, redacting personal information such as signatures, personal addresses and phone numbers prior to publication.

Question put and passed.

3. BILL REFERRALS – CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS/EVIDENCE

Mineral Titles Legislation Amendment Bill 2026

Mrs Zio moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

The Committee forward questions regarding the issues identified in submissions to the Department of Mining and Energy for a written response to be received by Tuesday 14 April 2026.

Question put and passed.

Pipelines and Petroleum Legislation Amendment (Industry Development) Bill 2026

Mrs Zio moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that:

The Committee forward questions regarding the issues identified in submissions to the Department of Mining and Energy for a written response to be received by Tuesday 14 April 2026.

Question put and passed.

Criminal Procedure Legislation Amendment Bill 2026

Mrs Zio moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

The Committee forward questions regarding the issues identified in submissions to the Attorney-General's Department for a written response to be received by Tuesday 14 April 2026.

Question put and passed.

Racing and Wagering Amendment Bill 2026

Mrs Zio moved and Mr Paech seconded that:

The Committee forward questions regarding the issues identified in submissions to the Department of Tourism and Hospitality for a written response to be received by Tuesday 14 April 2026.

Question put and passed.

Heritage Amendment Bill 2026

Mr Howe moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

Proposed Resolution

The Committee forward questions regarding the issues identified in submissions to the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment for a written response to be received by Tuesday 14 April 2026.

Question put and passed.

Firearms Amendment Bill 2026

Mrs Zio moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

The Committee forward questions regarding the issues identified in submissions to the NT Police Force for a written response to be received by Tuesday 14 April 2026.

Question put and passed.

Liquor Licensing Amendment (Fast Track Approvals) Bill 2026

Justine Davis moved and Mr Howe passed that:

The Committee forward questions regarding the issues identified in submissions to the Department of Tourism and Hospitality for a written response to be received by Tuesday 14 April 2026.

Question put and passed.

4. NEXT MEETING

Deliberative Meeting: 1.00 pm, Friday 17 April 2026.

Meeting closed at 2.05 pm.



**Mrs Oly Carlson MLA
Chair**



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
15th Assembly

Legislative Scrutiny Committee
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 37

1.00 pm, Friday 17 April 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 Khoda Patel MLA, Member for Casuarina (substitute)
Mr Manuel Brown, Member for Arafura (substitute)
- Apologies:** Mr Chanston Paech MLA, Member for Gwoja
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Member for Fannie Bay
- Secretariat:** Candice Maclean, Executive Director
Katie Helme, Committee Secretary
Dr Will Dreyer, Senior Research Officer
Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr Howe moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 36 of 1 April 2026 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr Howe moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of the responses to written questions regarding the Mineral Titles Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, Pipelines and Petroleum Legislation Amendment (Industry Development) Bill 2026, Criminal Procedure Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, Racing and Wagering Amendment Bill 2026, Heritage Amendment Bill 2026, Firearms Amendment Bill 2026, and Liquor Licensing Amendment (Fast Track Approvals) Bill 2026.

Question put and passed.

3. BILL REFERRALS

The Committee considered the Consideration of Evidence documents.

Mr Howe moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

The Bill Inquiry reports be drafted as agreed to in the meeting.

Question put and passed.

4. NEXT MEETING

Deliberative Meeting: 11.00 am, Monday 27 April 2026

Meeting closed at 3.03 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Oly Carlson', written over a horizontal line.

**Mrs Oly Carlson MLA
Chair**



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Legislative Scrutiny Committee

DRAFT MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 38

11.00 am, Monday 27 April 2026

Litchfield Room

- Present:** Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Chair, Member for Wanguri
Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Drysdale
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Member for Fannie Bay
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston
Ms Selena Uibo, Member for Arnhem (substitute)
- Apologies:** Mr Chanston Paech MLA, Member for Gwoja
- Secretariat:** Candice Maclean, Executive Director
Katie Helme, Committee Secretary
Dr Will Dreyer, Senior Research Officer
Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer
Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr Howe moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 37 of 17 April 2026 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. BILL REFERRALS

Mineral Titles Legislation Amendment Bill 2026

Justine Davis moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

In Recommendations 4 and 7, the Committee recommend policy guidelines are published, rather than recommending consideration be given to issuing policy guidelines.

The Committee divided.

For
Justine Davis
Mr Howe
Ms Uibo

Against
Mrs Carlson
Mrs Zio

Question passed.

Mr Howe moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The Committee adopt the Chair's draft report, *Inquiry into the Mineral Titles Legislation Amendment Bill 2026*, as amended, to be tabled out of session with the Speaker on Thursday 30 April 2026 pursuant to SO200(4) for subsequent tabling in the Assembly on Tuesday 5 May 2026.

Question put and passed.

Pipelines and Petroleum Legislation Amendment (Industry Development) Bill 2026

Mr Howe moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that:

The Committee adopt the Chair's draft report, *Inquiry into the Pipelines and Petroleum Legislation Amendment (Industry Development) Bill 2026*, as amended, to be tabled out of session with the Speaker on Thursday 30 April 2026 pursuant to SO200(4) for subsequent tabling in the Assembly on Tuesday 5 May 2026.

Question put and passed.

Criminal Procedure Legislation Amendment Bill 2026

Mr Howe moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The Committee adopt the Chair's draft report, *Inquiry into the Criminal Procedure Legislation Amendment Bill 2026*, to be tabled out of session with the Speaker on Thursday 30 April 2026 pursuant to SO200(4) for subsequent tabling in the Assembly on Tuesday 5 May 2026.

Question put and passed.

Heritage Amendment Bill 2026

Mrs Zio moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

The Committee adopt the Chair's draft report, *Inquiry into the Heritage Amendment Bill 2026*, to be tabled out of session with the Speaker on Thursday 30 April 2026 pursuant to SO200(4) for subsequent tabling in the Assembly on Tuesday 5 May 2026.

Question put and passed.

Firearms Amendment Bill 2026

Mrs Zio moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

That the Committee adopt the Chair's draft report, *Inquiry into the Firearms Amendment Bill 2026*, as amended, to be tabled out of session with the Speaker on Thursday 30 April 2026 pursuant to SO200(4) for subsequent tabling in the Assembly on Tuesday 5 May 2026.

Question put and passed.

Liquor Licensing Amendment (Fast Track Approvals) Bill 2026

Mrs Zio moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

That the Committee adopt the Chair's draft report, *Inquiry into the Liquor Licensing Amendment (Fast Track Approvals) Bill 2026*, as amended, to be tabled out of session with the Speaker on Thursday 30 April 2026 pursuant to SO200(4) for subsequent tabling in the Assembly on Tuesday 5 May 2026.

Question put and passed.

Racing and Wagering Amendment Bill 2026

Mrs Carlson moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The Committee adopt the Chair's draft report, *Inquiry into the Racing and Wagering Amendment Bill 2026*, as amended, to be tabled out of session with the Speaker on Thursday 30 April 2026 pursuant to SO200(4) for subsequent tabling in the Assembly on Tuesday 5 May 2026.

Question put and passed.

3. NEXT MEETING

Deliberative meeting - Thursday 7 May 2026

Meeting closed at 1.12 pm.

Mrs Oly Carlson MLA
Chair