

PART III

THE MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

Minutes of Proceedings

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

No. 16

Tuesday, 12 August 1975

1. The Assembly met at 1000 hours pursuant to the Resolution of 19 June 1975.
2. **RESIGNATION OF SPEAKER**—The Clerk at the Table informed the Assembly of the resignation of Mr Speaker Kilgariff on Wednesday, 16 July 1975 and the appointment on that same day of Mr J. L. S. MacFarlane by the Acting Administrator to exercise the powers and perform the functions of the Speaker which appointment had now been terminated by this meeting of the Assembly. The Clerk thereupon called for nominations for the position of Speaker.
3. **ELECTION OF SPEAKER**: Dr Letts, addressing himself to the Clerk, proposed to the Assembly for its Speaker Mr MacFarlane, and moved, That he do take the Chair of the Assembly as Speaker, which motion was seconded by Mr Kilgariff.
Mr MacFarlane informed the Assembly that he accepted nomination.
There being no further proposal Mr MacFarlane was thereupon declared elected as Speaker, and Dr Letts and Mr Kilgariff conducted him to the Chair.
Mr MacFarlane thanked the Assembly for the honour it had conferred on him by choosing him to be its Speaker and thereupon sat in the Chair.
Members expressed congratulations to Mr Speaker MacFarlane.
4. **VACANCY IN OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES**: Mr Speaker informed the Assembly that consequent on his elevation to the Speakership there existed a vacancy in the office of Chairman of Committees.
5. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES**: Dr Letts moved that Mr J. M. Robertson be elected Chairman of Committees, which motion was seconded by Mr Kilgariff.
Mr Robertson informed the Assembly that he accepted nomination.
There being no further proposal, Mr Robertson was thereupon declared elected as Chairman of Committees.
Members expressed congratulations to Mr Robertson who thanked the Assembly for the honour it had conferred on him.
6. **NOTICES**: The following notices were given:

Mr Withnall: To move That in view of the complete failure of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission to rebuild or assist with the rebuilding of any private accommodation in the Darwin disaster area and in view of the disregard shown by the Commission for the danger and personal discomfort which faces many people in the coming wet season in Darwin this Assembly calls for:

1. The Federal Government to repeal the Darwin Reconstruction Act so that rebuilding can proceed without further delay under local authorities.
2. The immediate resignation of the Chairman of the Commission on the grounds of his incompetence.
3. Termination of all appointments to the Citizens' Advisory Council on the grounds that the composition of the Council and nature of many appointments to it is abhorrent to all democratic principles.
4. The return of the normal process of law in the formulation of building standards in place of the present arbitrary and in many cases unwarranted requirements which are being imposed by the Commission and which have succeeded only in raising the price of ordinary domestic residences in Darwin beyond the reach of the normal wage earning citizen.

Mr Withnall: To move that the following address be presented to the Senate and the House of Representatives in the Australian Parliament:

The Legislative Assembly for the Northern Territory presents its compliments to the respective Houses of the Australian Parliament and requests that a direction be given to the Joint Committee on the Northern Territory to inquire into and report on all aspects of the Darwin Reconstruction Act and its administration with particular reference to:

1. The published objectives of the Commission and the level of achievement.
2. Whether undue accent has been given to planning and sociological investigations by the Commission.
3. Any evidence of wasteful expenditure by the Commission.
4. Whether the actions of the Commission in regard to home building have resulted in many people defying the law with the object of providing themselves with shelter before the coming wet season.
5. Whether the Chairman of the Commission can effectively carry out his duties while at the same time holding a full-time position in Canberra.
6. Whether the reconstruction of Darwin could have been carried out just as effectively by the Department of Housing and Construction and the Northern Territory Housing Commission.

Mr Pollock: To present the Nursing Bill 1975 (Serial 48).

Miss Andrew: To present the Litter Bill 1975 (Serial 45).

Mr Tambling: To present the Local Government Bill 1975 (Serial 44).

Mr Ryan: To present the Explosives Bill (No. 2) 1975 (Serial 46).

7. **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
8. **SELECT COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO THE MATTER OF SECURING THE STABILIZATION OF LAND PRICES—REPORT:** Mr Withnall presented the Report from the Select Committee and moved—That the Report be noted.

Debate adjourned pursuant to standing order 237.

9. **DARWIN AREA BUILDING MANUAL:** Dr Letts, by leave, tabled a copy of the Revised Building Manual adopted by the Darwin Reconstruction Commission.
10. **EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES—STATEMENT:** Dr Letts, by leave, made a statement relating to recent changes in Executive Responsibilities.

Mr Kilgariff moved—That the Statement be noted.

Debate ensued.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING: The sitting was suspended between 1204 and 1400 hours.

Debate resumed.

Question put and passed.

11. **SELECT COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO THE MATTER OF SECURING THE STABILIZATION OF LAND PRICES—REPORT:** Dr Letts, by leave, moved—That notwithstanding that the motion “That the Report of the Select Committee on the Stabilization of Land Prices be noted” was not moved by an Executive Member, the motion be considered as Government business.

Question put and passed.

12. **LOTTERY AND GAMING ORDINANCE—PROPOSED INQUIRY:** Mr Pollock, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly, pursuant to section 4A of the *Inquiries Ordinance*, resolves that a board of inquiry or a person be appointed to inquire into, report on and make recommendations concerning all aspects of the administration and operation of the Lottery and Gaming Ordinance and in particular—

1. the adequacy of the Lottery and Gaming Ordinance and related legislation and the administration of that legislation;
2. the needs of the racing industry in the Territory and the extent of assistance that is or could be provided under the legislation;
3. the conditions and controls under which the present off-course betting system operates;
4. whether the present off-course betting system should be replaced by a totalizator system; the revenue potential of a totalizator system as against the present off-course betting system or that system paying a turnover tax; the relative benefits of each system to the racing industry and to the public;
5. whether the present tax per betting ticket is adequate and the desirability of its replacement with a turnover tax;
6. the uses and distribution of revenue raised under the legislation.

Debate adjourned and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour.

13. **ADJOURNMENT:** Dr Letts moved—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

And then the Assembly at 1648 hours adjourned until tomorrow at 1000 hours.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 12 August 1975, pursuant to statute:—

Annual Reports:

Darwin Hospital Advisory Board 1974/75.
Northern Territory Reserves Board 1974/75.

Determinations and Agreements:

Agreement between Administrator and Northern Territory Police Association dated 21.5.75.
Agreement between Administrator and Northern Territory Firefighters Association dated 11.6.75.
Agreement between Administrator and Northern Territory Senior Prison Officers Association dated 11.6.75.
Agreement between Administrator and Northern Territory Prison Officers Association dated 11.6.75.
Agreement between Administrator and Northern Territory Prison Officers Association dated 11.6.75.
Agreement between Administrator and Northern Territory Police Association dated 21.5.75.
Agreement between Administrator and Northern Territory Police Commissioned Officers Association dated 21.5.75.
Agreement between Administrator and Northern Territory Police Commissioned Officers Association dated 21.5.75.
Police Arbitral Tribunal Determination No. 12.

Minutes of Meetings of Town Management Boards:

Katherine—10 June 1975;
10 July 1975;
17 July 1975.

Tennant Creek—14 July 1975.

Regulations—1975:

No. 13—Amendments of the Public Service Regulations.

No. 14—Cyclone Disaster (Water and Sewerage Charges) Regulations.

No. 15—Amendments of the Hospitals and Medical Services (Charges) Regulations.

ATTENDANCE: All members attended the sitting.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

No. 17

Wednesday, 13 August 1975

1. The Assembly met at 1000 hours pursuant to adjournment—Mr Speaker MacFarlane took the Chair.
2. NOTICES: The following notices were given:—
Dr Letts: To present the Crown Lands Bill 1975 (Serial 9).
Miss Andrew: To present the Prices Regulation Bill 1975 (Serial 49).
3. QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.
4. DARWIN “DRUNKS” 1975: Mr Pollock tabled the Report of Dr Gerald Milner for the Department of the Northern Territory and moved—That the Paper be noted.
Debate adjourned and made an order of the day for a later hour.
5. NURSING BILL 1975 (Serial 48): Mr Pollock, pursuant to notice presented the Bill which was thereupon read a first time.
Mr Pollock moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour.
6. EXPLOSIVES BILL (No. 2) 1975 (Serial 46): Mr Ryan, pursuant to notice, presented the Bill which was thereupon read a first time.
Mr Ryan moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour.
7. LITTER BILL 1975 (Serial 45): Miss Andrew, pursuant to notice, presented the Bill which was thereupon read a first time.
Miss Andrew moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour.
8. LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL 1975 (Serial 44): Mr Tambling, pursuant to notice, presented the Bill which was thereupon read a first time.
Mr Tambling moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour.
9. STABILIZATION OF LAND PRICES BILL—SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT:
The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Withnall—That the Report be noted.
Debate resumed.

Debate adjourned and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour.

10. **PROPOSED INQUIRY INTO THE ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATION OF THE LOTTERY AND GAMING ORDINANCE:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Pollock—That this Assembly, pursuant to section 4A of the *Inquiries Ordinance*, resolves that a board of inquiry or a person be appointed to inquire into, report on and make recommendations concerning all aspects of the administration and operation of the Lottery and Gaming Ordinance and in particular—
1. the adequacy of the Lottery and Gaming Ordinance and related legislation and the administration of that legislation;
 2. the needs of the racing industry in the Territory and the extent of assistance that is or could be provided under the legislation;
 3. the conditions and controls under which the present off-course betting system operates;
 4. whether the present off-course betting system should be replaced by a totalizator system; the revenue potential of a totalizator system as against the present off-course betting system or that system paying a turnover tax; the relative benefits of each system to the racing industry and to the public;
 5. whether the present tax per betting ticket is adequate and the desirability of its replacement with a turnover tax;
 6. the uses and distribution of revenue raised under the legislation.

Debate ensued.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING: The sitting was suspended between 1157 and 1400 hours.

Debate resumed.

Debate adjourned and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour.

11. **DINGO DESTRUCTION BILL 1975 (Serial 39):** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—

Debate resumed.

Question put and passed—Bill read a second time.

The Assembly resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

(In the committee)

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole and agreed to.

The Assembly resumed—Mr Chairman reported the Bill and the report was adopted.

The Bill was read a third time and passed to be an Ordinance.

12. **HOUSING BILL 1975 (Serial 40):** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—

Debate resumed.

Question put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Mr Steele moved—That the committee stages be later taken.

Question put and passed.

13. LICENSING BILL (No. 2) 1975 (Serial 41): The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate adjourned and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour.

14. PORTS BILL 1975 (Serial 42): The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—

Debate resumed.

Question put and passed—Bill read a second time.

The Assembly resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

(In the committee)

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3—

On the motion of Mr Ryan the following amendment was made:—

Omit from proposed new section 29A “14 days” and substitute “28 days”.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Title agreed to.

The Assembly resumed—Mr Chairman reported the Bill and the report was adopted.

The Bill was read a third time and passed to be an Ordinance.

16. BRUCELLOSIS AND TUBERCULOSIS—INDUSTRIES COMMISSION REPORT: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Dr Letts—That the Report be noted.

Debate resumed.

Questions put and passed.

17. ADJOURNMENT: Dr Letts moved—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

And then the Assembly at 1626 hours adjourned until tomorrow at 1000 hours.

ATTENDANCE: All members attended the sitting.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

No. 18

Thursday, 14 August 1975

1. The Assembly met at 1000 hours pursuant to adjournment—Mr Speaker MacFarlane took the Chair.
2. NOTICES: The following notice was given:-
Mr Ryan: To present the Motor Vehicles Bill 1975 (Serial 43).
3. QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.
4. PRICES REGULATION BILL 1975 (Serial 49): Miss Andrew, pursuant to notice, presented the Bill which was thereupon read a first time.
Miss Andrew moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour.
5. CROWN LANDS BILL 1975 (Serial 9): Dr Letts, pursuant to notice, presented the Bill which was thereupon read a first time.
Dr Letts moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour.
6. DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES: The following warrant nominating Deputy Chairmen of Committees, pursuant to Standing Order No. 11, was laid upon the Table by Mr Speaker—

“THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WARRANT

Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order Number 11, I hereby nominate—

Milton James BALLANTYNE,
Marshall Bruce PERRON, and
Hyacinth TUNGUTALUM

to act as Deputy Chairmen of Committees when requested to do so by the Chairman of Committees.

Given under my hand this fourteenth day of August, 1975.

(Sgd.) J. L. S. MacFARLANE
Speaker”

7. ADMINISTRATOR'S COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP: Dr Letts, by leave, announced the appointment of Mr B. F. Kilgariff to the Administrator's Council.
8. STABILIZATION OF LAND PRICES BILL—SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Withnall—That the Report be noted.
Debate resumed.
On the motion of Dr Letts the following amendment was made:-

Add at the end “and that it be commended to the Australian Senate as the considered opinion and legislative proposal of this Assembly.”

Amendment agreed to.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

9. **PROPOSED INQUIRY INTO THE ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATION OF THE LOTTERY AND GAMING ORDINANCE:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate the motion of Mr Pollock—That the Assembly, pursuant to section 4A of the *Inquiries Ordinance*, resolves that a board of inquiry or a person be appointed to inquire into, report on and make recommendations concerning all aspects of the administration and operation of the Lottery and Gaming Ordinance and in particular—

1. the adequacy of the Lottery and Gaming Ordinance and related legislation and the administration of that legislation;
2. the needs of the racing industry in the Territory and the extent of assistance that is or could be provided under the legislation;
3. the conditions and controls under which the present off-course betting system operates;
4. whether the present off-course betting system should be replaced by a totalizator system; the revenue potential of a totalizator system as against the present off-course betting system or that system paying a turnover tax; the relative benefits of each system to the racing industry and to the public;
5. whether the present tax per betting ticket is adequate and the desirability of its replacement with a turnover tax;
6. the uses and distribution of revenue raised under the legislation.

Debate resumed.

Question put and passed.

10. **DARWIN “DRUNKS” REPORT:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Pollock—That the Report be noted.

Debate adjourned and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour.

11. **ALTERATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS:** On the motion of Dr Letts order of the day No. 5 was called on.

12. **LICENSING BILL (No. 2) 1975 (Serial 41):** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—

Debate resumed.

Question put and passed—Bill read a second time.

The Assembly resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

(In the committee)

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3—

On the motion of Mr Withnall the following amendment was made:—

Omit from proposed new section 46(1A)(c) all words after “obliged to pay” and substitute “had his licence been renewed at those sittings”.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 4—

On the motion of Mr Withnall the following amendment was made:—

Omit from proposed new section 94(2)(c) all words after “obliged to pay” and substitute “had the licence been renewed at those sittings”.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Title agreed to.

The Assembly resumed—Mr Chairman reported the Bill and the report was adopted.

The Bill was read a third time and passed to be an Ordinance.

13. **ALTERATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS:** On the motion of Dr Letts order of the day No. 4 was called on.

14. **HOUSING BILL 1975 (Serial 40):** The order of the day having been read for the consideration of the Bill in the committee of the whole Assembly.

The Assembly resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

(In the committee)

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3—

On the motion of Mr Tambling the following amendment was made, after debate:—

Omit paragraph (b) and substitute the following paragraph:

“(b) by omitting sub-section 6 and substituting the following sub-sections:

“(6) Where a person is dissatisfied with the amount of purchase money considered by the Commission to be the appropriate amount under sub-section (3), he may request the Commission to seek the opinion of the Valuer-General, as to the correctness of that amount, and the Commission shall forthwith seek that opinion.

“(7) Where the opinion sought under sub-section (6) differs from that of the Commission, the Valuer-General’s opinion shall, for the purposes of sub-section (3), be taken as the opinion of the Commission and the amount of purchase money payable under that sub-section shall be varied accordingly.”

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 4—

On the motion of Mr Tambling the following amendment together with a formal amendment was made:—

Omit from proposed new section 15 “excepted” and substitute “, and damage by, or arising out of, fire, storm and tempest, flood or earthquake excepted”.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 5 and 6 agreed to.

Title agreed to.

The Assembly resumed—Mr Chairman reported the Bill and the report was adopted.

The Bill was read a third time and passed to be an Ordinance.

15. **NURSING BILL 1975 (Serial 48):** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—

Debate resumed.

Debate adjourned and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour.

16. **SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT:** Dr Letts moved—That the Assembly, at its rising adjourn until 1000 hours on Wednesday, 20 August 1975.

Question put and passed.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING: The sitting was suspended between 1147 and 1400 hours.

The Assembly resumed.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING: The sitting was further suspended between 1401 and 1415 hours.

17. ALTERATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS: On the motion of Dr Letts, Order No. 1 General Business was called on.

18. PROPOSED ADDRESS TO THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—DARWIN RECONSTRUCTION COMMISSION: Mr Withnall, pursuant to notice moved—That the following address be presented to the Senate and the House of Representatives in the Australian Parliament:—

The Legislative Assembly for the Northern Territory presents its compliments to the respective Houses of the Australian Parliament and requests that a direction be given to the Joint Committee on the Northern Territory to inquire into and report on all aspects of the Darwin Reconstruction Act and its administration with particular reference to:

1. The published objectives of the Commission and the level of achievement.
2. Whether undue accent has been given to planning and sociological investigations by the Commission.
3. Any evidence of wasteful expenditure by the Commission.
4. Whether the actions of the Commission in regard to home building have resulted in many people defying the law with the object of providing themselves with shelter before the coming wet season.
5. Whether the Chairman of the Commission can effectively carry out his duties while at the same time holding a full-time position in Canberra.
6. Whether the reconstruction of Darwin could have been carried out just as effectively by the Department of Housing and Construction and the Northern Territory Housing Commission.

Mr Tambling moved as an amendment—

Omit all words after “That” and substitute:—

“in view of the failure of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission—

- (a) to reach a satisfactory level of achievement in the reconstruction of Darwin;
- (b) to take into account public views and communicate its policies and activities to the public;
- (c) to rebuild or assist in rebuilding private accommodation in the Darwin area; and
- (d) to have sufficient regard for the danger and personal discomfort which faces many Darwin people in the coming wet season,

this Assembly, on behalf of the people of the Territory, expresses its lack of confidence in the Commission as it is at present established and operating and calls on the Minister for Northern Australia and the Australian Government to:

1. announce immediately their policies on the role of the Australian Government in redeveloping the public and private sectors of the Darwin community;
2. direct the Commission to concentrate on construction action, to reduce planning activities to a necessary minimum, and to obviate delays in obtaining building approvals;
3. direct the Commission to use the existing Northern Territory construction agencies, particularly the Department of Housing and Construction and the Housing Commission for reconstruction purposes;
4. appoint, and direct the Commission to appoint, permanently, as a matter of urgency, senior officers including the General Manager, and to resolve a suitable organisational structure (consistent with the above guidelines), giving preference to people with local experience and knowledge;
5. review the appointment of Chairman with the aim of ensuring he will reside in the Territory;

6. direct the Chairman to act consistently with policies laid down by the Commission and the Minister, and to avoid trends that duplicate rather than co-ordinate and complement existing services and agencies;
7. review the manner of nomination and appointment of the Darwin Citizens' Council to obtain better and more democratic representation from the community on this body;
8. carry out their obligations in relation to the surrender, acquisition, exchange and assembly of land and prompt payment of compensation therefor;
9. direct the Commission to reduce wasteful expenditure particularly in the excessive and wasteful use of consultants;
10. institute an inquiry and make a public report on the financial systems and controls of the Commission and on any conflicts of interest which have arisen where consultants have been involved in making decisions in relation to supply of goods and services.

And the Assembly considers that unless there is a marked and tangible improvement in the performance of the Commission by the end of 1975, the Government should take steps to repeal the Darwin Reconstruction Act, and support the Assembly in creating a more suitable reconstruction authority under Territory law."

Debate ensued.

Debate adjourned and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour.

19. ADJOURNMENT: Dr Letts moved—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

And then the Assembly at 1703 hours adjourned until 1000 hours on Wednesday, 20 August 1975.

ATTENDANCE: All members attended the sitting.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

No. 19

Wednesday, 20 August 1975

1. The Assembly met at 1000 hours pursuant to the Resolution of 14 August 1975—Mr Speaker MacFarlane took the Chair.
2. NOTICES: The following notices were given:—Dr Letts: To present the Crown Lands Bill (No. 2) 1975 (Serial 52).

Dr Letts: To move That in the event that the resignation of Dr G. A. Letts from the Darwin Reconstruction Commission is accepted by the Governor-General the member nominated by this Assembly as of that date pursuant to section 19 (1) of the Darwin Reconstruction Act shall be Grant Ernest John Tambling.

3. QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.
4. MOTOR VEHICLES BILL 1975 (Serial 43): Mr Ryan, pursuant to notice, presented the Bill which was thereupon read a first time.

Mr Ryan moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate adjourned and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour.

5. FEDERAL BUDGET PAPERS 1975-76: Mr Kilgariff, by leave, laid on the Table papers relating to the Northern Territory extracted from the Federal Budget for the year 1975-76 and, by leave, made a statement.

Dr Letts, by leave, moved—That the statement made by the Executive Member for Finance and Law be noted.

Debate ensued.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING: The sitting was suspended between 1200 and 1400 hours.

Debate resumed.

Debate adjourned and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour.

6. CROWN LANDS BILL 1975 (Serial 9): The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—

Debate resumed.

Debate adjourned and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour.

7. DARWIN "DRUNKS" REPORT: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Pollock—That the Report be noted.

Debate resumed.

Debate adjourned and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Miss Andrew moved—That the Assembly do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question put and passed.
And then the Assembly at 1713 hours adjourned until tomorrow at 1000 hours.

ATTENDANCE: All members attended the sitting.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

No. 20

Thursday, 21 August 1975

1. The Assembly met at 1000 hours pursuant to adjournment—Mr Speaker MacFarlane took the Chair.
2. **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
3. **REPRESENTATION ON DARWIN RECONSTRUCTION COMMISSION:** Dr Letts, pursuant to notice, moved That in the event that the resignation of Dr G. A. Letts from the Darwin Reconstruction Commission is accepted by the Governor-General the member nominated by this Assembly as of that date pursuant to section 19 (1) of the Darwin Reconstruction Act shall be Grant Ernest John Tambling.
Question put and passed.
4. **CROWN LANDS BILL 1975 (Serial 52):** Dr Letts, pursuant to notice, presented the Bill which was thereupon read a first time.
Dr Letts moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour.
5. **NORTHERN TERRITORY BUDGET PAPERS—STATEMENT:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Dr Letts, That the Statement be noted.
Debate resumed.
Question put and passed.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING: The sitting was suspended between 1150 and 1400 hours.
6. **SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT:** Dr Letts moved—That the Assembly, at its rising, adjourn until 1000 hours on Tuesday, 14 October 1975.
Question put and passed.
7. **CROWN LANDS BILL 1975 (Serial 9):** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—
Debate resumed.
Dr Letts, by leave, made a statement relating to a proposal for urgent treatment of the Bill.
Debate adjourned and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour.
8. **ALTERATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS:** On the motion of Dr Letts order of the day No. 1, General Business, was called on.

9. **PROPOSED ADDRESS TO THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Withnall That the following address be presented to the Senate and the House of Representatives in the Australian Parliament:—

The Legislative Assembly for the Northern Territory presents its compliments to the respective Houses of the Australian Parliament and requests that a direction be given to the Joint Committee on the Northern Territory to inquire into and report on all aspects of the Darwin Reconstruction Act and its administration with particular references to:

1. The published objectives of the Commission and the level of achievement.
2. Whether undue accent has been given to planning and sociological investigations by the Commission.
3. Any evidence of wasteful expenditure by the Commission.
4. Whether the actions of the Commission in regard to home building have resulted in many people defying the law with the object of providing themselves with shelter before the coming wet season.
5. Whether the Chairman of the Commission can effectively carry out his duties while at the same time holding a full-time position in Canberra.
6. Whether the reconstruction of Darwin could have been carried out just as effectively by the Department of Housing and Construction and the Northern Territory Housing Commission.

and on the amendment moved by Mr Tambling,

Omit all words after "That" and substitute:—

"in view of the failure of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission—

- (a) to reach a satisfactory level of achievement in the reconstruction of Darwin;
- (b) to take into account public views and communicate its policies and activities to the public;
- (c) to rebuild or assist in rebuilding private accommodation in the Darwin area; and
- (d) to have sufficient regard for the danger and personal discomfort which faces many Darwin people in the coming wet season,

this Assembly, on behalf of the people of the Territory, expresses its lack of confidence in the Commission as it is at present established and operating and calls on the Minister for Northern Australia and the Australian Government to:

1. announce immediately their policies on the role of the Australian Government in redeveloping the public and private sectors of the Darwin community;
2. direct the Commission to concentrate on construction action, to reduce planning activities to a necessary minimum, and to obviate delays in obtaining building approvals;
3. direct the Commission to use the existing Northern Territory construction agencies, particularly the Department of Housing and Construction and the Housing Commission for reconstruction purposes;
4. appoint, and direct the Commission to appoint, permanently, as a matter of urgency, senior officers including the General Manager, and to resolve a suitable organisational structure (consistent with the above guidelines), giving preference to people with local experience and knowledge;
5. review the appointment of Chairman with the aim of ensuring he will reside in the Territory;
6. direct the Chairman to act consistently with policies laid down by the Commission and the Minister, and to avoid trends that duplicate rather than co-ordinate and complement existing services and agencies;
7. review the manner of nomination and appointment of the Darwin Citizens' Council to obtain better and more democratic representation from the community on this body;
8. carry out their obligations in relation to the surrender, acquisition, exchange and assembly of land and prompt payment of compensation therefor;
9. direct the Commission to reduce wasteful expenditure particularly in the excessive and wasteful use of consultants;
10. institute an inquiry and make a public report on the financial systems and controls of the Commission and on any conflicts of interest which have arisen where consultants have been involved in making decisions in relation to supply of goods and services.

And the Assembly considers that unless there is a marked and tangible improvement in the performance of the Commission by the end of 1975, the Government should take steps to repeal the Darwin Reconstruction Act, and support the Assembly in creating a more suitable reconstruction authority under Territory law.

Debate resumed.
Amendment agreed to.
Motion, as amended, agreed to.

10. **DARWIN "DRUNKS" REPORT:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Pollock That the Report be noted.
Debate resumed.
Question put and passed.
11. **ADJOURNMENT:** Dr Letts moved—That the Assembly do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question put and passed.
And then the Assembly at 1735 hours adjourned until 1000 hours on Tuesday, 14 October 1975.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 21 August 1975, pursuant to statute:—

Determinations and Agreements:

Agreement between Administrator and Northern Territory Firefighters Association dated 16 July 1975.
Police Commissioned Officers Arbitral Tribunal Determination No. 5.

Recommendations under Section 103 of the Crown Lands Ordinance:

Proposed revocation of part of Ross Park Reserve, Alice Springs—Reserve No. 977.

ATTENDANCE: All members attended the sitting.

F. WALKER
Clerk of the Assembly

FIRST LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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