



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**  
**ESTIMATES COMMITTEE**  
**REPORT**

**Tuesday 10 June 2014**  
**Wednesday 11 June 2014**  
**Thursday 12 June 2014**  
**Tuesday 17 June 2014**  
**Wednesday 18 June 2014**

The Estimates Committee examined the estimates of proposed expenditure contained in the Appropriation Bill 2014-2015. Questions were raised by Members on the following issues:

PORTFOLIO	ISSUES
<b>Speaker</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Staffing</li><li>• Electorate office expenditure</li><li>• Car allowances for Members of Parliament</li><li>• Building maintenance</li><li>• Nhulunbuy Electorate Office</li><li>• DLA Website</li></ul>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drivers of Economic Growth - agribusiness</li><li>• Water supply and allocation</li><li>• Economic impacts of Rio Tinto Alcan refinery closure</li><li>• Gove structural adjustment package</li><li>• Cost of living pressures</li><li>• State final demand figures</li><li>• Reduction in National Partnerships funding</li><li>• Factoring royalty payments into economic modelling</li><li>• Major infrastructure development</li><li>• Investment in the Territory</li><li>• Land development and zoning</li><li>• Commonwealth Grants Commission funding</li><li>• Commonwealth health and education funding allocation</li><li>• NT debt levels, risk and impact on credit rating</li><li>• Revenue raising measures in the NT</li><li>• First home owner grants</li><li>• Power and Water Corporation</li><li>• Utilities Commission</li></ul>
<b>Alcohol Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consideration of crime statistics in development of Alcohol Policy</li></ul>

PORTFOLIO	ISSUES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Banned Drinkers Register</li> <li>Darwin Liquor Accord</li> <li>CCTV Cameras in Mitchell Street</li> <li>Alcohol Management Plans</li> </ul>
<b>Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procurement processes and procurement review board</li> <li>Corporate bookmakers and changes to taxation</li> <li>Caps on poker machine licences and poker machine trading schemes</li> <li>Firefighter compensation health fund</li> <li>Business closures in the NT</li> <li>Business Advisory Council</li> <li>Tourism business development and Indigenous involvement</li> </ul>
<b>Employment and Training</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liaison with Commonwealth re training budget cuts</li> </ul>
<b>Local Government &amp; Regions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Election of representative Local Government members</li> <li>Role of LGANT</li> <li>Local Government Authority funding</li> <li>Financial sustainability of Regional Councils</li> <li>Latitude 12</li> </ul>
<b>Corporate &amp; Information Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nhulunbuy Electorate Office</li> </ul>
<b>Defence Industries &amp; Community Support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defence industrial land</li> </ul>
<b>Attorney-General and Justice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crime statistics</li> <li>Number of court cases</li> <li>Funding for Victims of Crime</li> <li>Appointment of Magistrates</li> <li>Forfeiture of property</li> <li>Kenbi Land Claim</li> <li>Community Justice Centres</li> <li>Fines recovery</li> </ul>
<b>Public Employment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employee survey</li> <li>Teachers' EBA</li> </ul>
<b>Children &amp; Families</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Factors associated with children in care</li> <li>Foster Carers: recruitment and support</li> <li>Complaints resolution</li> <li>Caseloads for frontline workers</li> <li>Notifications – child abuse and neglect</li> <li>Care plans</li> <li>Out of home care</li> <li>Factors impacting on reporting of child abuse</li> <li>Implementation of recommendations from <i>Little Children are Sacred</i> report</li> </ul>
<b>Chief Minister</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Process for appointment of Auditor-General</li> <li>Awarding of water licences</li> <li>Darwin Waterfront Corporation audit</li> <li>Conflict of interest: Land Development Corporation and</li> </ul>

PORTFOLIO	ISSUES
	<p>Foundation 51</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electoral Commission complaint handling</li> <li>• Timing of elections</li> <li>• Review of Electoral Act</li> <li>• Complaints re Power and Water</li> <li>• Morgue management in remote communities</li> <li>• Complaints re remote housing</li> <li>• Cost of living</li> <li>• Government advertising</li> <li>• Departmental budget and Ministerial costs</li> <li>• Promotion and marketing costs</li> <li>• Boarding school policy settings</li> <li>• Operational funding: Environment Centre NT and Arid Lands Environment Centre</li> <li>• Ministerial travel costs</li> <li>• Federal funding: health, education</li> <li>• Social Policy Coordination unit: budget and staffing</li> <li>• Budget cuts in non-government sector</li> <li>• Office of the Chief Minister: budget and staffing</li> <li>• Hospitality budget for Office of the Chief Minister</li> <li>• Port operations</li> <li>• Dredging of channel and all tide access to Darwin harbour</li> <li>• Vessel management traffic control system</li> <li>• Capacity of bulk handling facilities</li> </ul>
<p><b>Northern Australia Development</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of the Ord</li> <li>• Research into Dams</li> <li>• Development of oil and gas industry</li> <li>• Consultation and feedback on land development plans</li> <li>• Land access for road development</li> <li>• Lease costs for facilities on Aboriginal land</li> <li>• NT's role in nuclear waste disposal</li> <li>• Future economic development of Gove</li> <li>• Impact of refinery closure on businesses in Gove</li> <li>• Regional area migration agreement</li> <li>• Framing the Future policy</li> <li>• Green paper on Northern Australia Development</li> <li>• Northern Australia Development Office: budget, staffing</li> </ul>
<p><b>Economic Development &amp; Major Projects</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offshore oil and gas projects</li> <li>• Marine Supply Base</li> <li>• Gas pipeline infrastructure</li> <li>• Commercial lease and land development opportunities on Tiwi Islands</li> <li>• Indigenous employment Tiwi forestry project</li> <li>• Kenbi Land claim</li> <li>• Economic development in Tennant Creek</li> <li>• Land Development Corporation staffing</li> <li>• Development of industrial and residential land</li> </ul>
<p><b>Asian Engagement &amp;</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staffing levels and classifications</li> </ul>

<b>PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>ISSUES</b>
<b>Trade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asian language skills of staff</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Defence Liaison</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic defence potential for Gove</li> <li>• Howard Springs North defence land development</li> <li>• Defence training exercises</li> <li>• Expansion of Robertson Barracks</li> <li>• Defence service and supply opportunities</li> </ul>
<b>Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact of Federal health funding cuts on NT services</li> <li>• Staffing levels and classifications</li> <li>• Health Services Framework</li> <li>• Privatisation of health assets</li> <li>• Outsourcing of health services</li> <li>• Impact of GP co-payment</li> <li>• Grants management system</li> <li>• Funding arrangements for non-government service providers</li> <li>• Availability of aged care facilities in the NT</li> <li>• Pensioner and carers concession scheme</li> <li>• Control of mosquito borne diseases</li> <li>• Status of secure care centres: Holtze and Alice Springs</li> <li>• Suicide rates and suicide prevention programs</li> <li>• Complex Behavioural Unit Darwin Correctional Centre</li> <li>• Complaints of bullying in the department of health</li> <li>• Recruitment of Aboriginal health practitioners</li> <li>• Royal flying doctor service</li> <li>• Procurement options for Palmerston Hospital</li> <li>• Parking at RDH</li> <li>• Double bunking in RDH emergency department</li> <li>• Upgrade of Nhulunbuy Hospital emergency department</li> </ul>
<b>Alcohol Rehabilitation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandatory alcohol rehabilitation tribunal</li> <li>• Community visitor and advocacy service</li> <li>• Incidence of repeat clients in mandatory alcohol rehabilitation program</li> <li>• After care plans</li> <li>• Plans for medi-hotel</li> <li>• Community treatment orders</li> <li>• Review of mandatory alcohol rehabilitation program</li> <li>• Income management orders</li> </ul>
<b>Disability Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding for disability services</li> <li>• Office of Disability Services budget and staffing</li> <li>• Tennant Creek trial of National Disability Insurance Scheme</li> <li>• Accommodation options – group homes</li> </ul>
<b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education budget</li> <li>• Bark petition</li> <li>• Federal contribution to NT Education budget</li> <li>• Bark petition</li> <li>• School construction</li> <li>• Cuts to teaching staff</li> <li>• Class sizes:</li> </ul>

PORTFOLIO	ISSUES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety concerns re student/teacher ratios in remote schools</li> <li>• CSIRO science program</li> <li>• Special education facilities</li> <li>• Indigenous support staff</li> <li>• Resourcing of remote schools</li> <li>• NAPLAN results</li> <li>• Direct instruction model</li> <li>• Boarding schools</li> <li>• Support for Homeland learning centres</li> <li>• Remote Teacher Retention Incentive</li> <li>• Class sizes</li> <li>• Meeting electricity costs</li> <li>• School autonomy and independent public schools</li> <li>• Relocation of NT Open Education Centre and Music School</li> <li>• International school</li> <li>• Tertiary education funding</li> </ul>
<b>Lands, Planning &amp; the Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land release and development costs</li> <li>• Land lease options</li> <li>• Weddell</li> <li>• Darwin regional land use plan</li> <li>• Rural land release and development</li> <li>• Rezoning and development proposals</li> <li>• Rezoning of Indigenous land in Totem Rd from conservation to specific use</li> <li>• Nightcliff Island</li> <li>• Rapid Creek Flood Mitigation</li> <li>• Development of Defence land</li> <li>• Redevelopment of Sports House site</li> <li>• Humpty Doo rezoning</li> <li>• Fracking</li> <li>• Muckaty nuclear waste disposal proposal</li> </ul>
<b>Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Departmental budget and staffing restructure</li> <li>• Funding and services for Homelessness</li> <li>• Remote Indigenous housing</li> <li>• Housing for Growth initiative</li> <li>• Construction of public housing</li> <li>• Social housing target</li> <li>• Remote Indigenous Home Purchase Strategy</li> <li>• Public housing evictions and lease terminations</li> <li>• Maintenance and rental debt in public housing</li> <li>• Public housing waiting lists</li> <li>• Housing maintenance contracts</li> <li>• Aboriginal employment in housing maintenance</li> <li>• First home owner grants</li> </ul>
<b>Tourism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Airline partnerships and international marketing</li> <li>• Arafura Games</li> <li>• Cruise ship industry</li> </ul>

PORTFOLIO	ISSUES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourism grants program</li> <li>• Support for Indigenous tourism development</li> <li>• Promotion of parks as part of tourism marketing</li> <li>• Wet season tourism opportunities</li> <li>• Niche tourism opportunities</li> <li>• Military tourism</li> <li>• Mates of the Territory initiative</li> <li>• Expansion of visitor information centres in the Shires</li> </ul>
<b>Sport, Recreation &amp; Racing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital expenditure and priorities</li> <li>• Facility grant recipients</li> <li>• AFL Competition</li> <li>• NT Rugby League</li> <li>• Cancellation of Australian Superbikes</li> <li>• Status of premises for badminton club</li> <li>• Funding for Freds Pass Reserve</li> <li>• Sports carnivals in remote communities</li> </ul>
<b>Primary Industry &amp; Fisheries</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NT's capacity to develop as a food bowl for Asia</li> <li>• Live cattle export industry – management of export supply chain</li> <li>• Ord River Development Stage 3 – infrastructure requirements for broad acre crops</li> <li>• Commercial fishing and Australian Marine Reserves</li> <li>• NT seafood export opportunities</li> <li>• Investment in promotion of NT products overseas</li> <li>• Department involvement in Correctional Services programs</li> <li>• Future development of Berrimah Farm</li> <li>• Remediation of contaminated land on Berrimah Farm and suitability for future development</li> <li>• Federal and NT funding for Indigenous Ranger Programs</li> <li>• Funding for Indigenous Fire Abatement Program</li> <li>• National process re Free range eggs</li> <li>• Banana Freckle: number of farms affected and area subject to eradication program</li> <li>• Trials of Panama disease resistant varieties of bananas</li> <li>• Budget for development of buffalo industry</li> <li>• Management of Buffalo Fly</li> <li>• Agriculture development potential on the Tiwi Islands</li> <li>• Pastoral rent collection</li> <li>• Issues associated with Mango farming and marketing</li> <li>• Development of passion fruit market</li> <li>• Expansion of NT's rice production</li> <li>• Development of sandalwood industry</li> <li>• Poppy Industry</li> <li>• Negotiations regarding Blue Mud Bay</li> <li>• Water allocation</li> <li>• Development of Dams: Daly and Elizabeth rivers</li> <li>• NT Fisheries Resource Sharing Framework</li> </ul>

PORTFOLIO	ISSUES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of aquaculture industry</li> <li>• Fish species protection</li> </ul>
<b>Mines &amp; Energy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iron Ore Bulk Sample</li> <li>• Road traffic management re Sherwin Iron's use of Roper Highway</li> <li>• Stage 3 expansion of McArthur River Mine</li> <li>• Ranger Uranium mine spill and rehabilitation of ERA mine site</li> <li>• Environmental bonds</li> <li>• Legacy mines and introduction of remediation levy</li> <li>• Regulation of fracking</li> <li>• Status of the Vista Gold mine at Mount Todd</li> <li>• Water management at Vista Gold mine site</li> <li>• Review of seabed mining</li> <li>• Uranium exploration</li> <li>• Mapping of potential renewable energy sites</li> <li>• Creating Opportunities for Resource Exploration (CORE) Program</li> </ul>
<b>Land Resource Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Response to <i>Use it or Lose it</i> policy</li> <li>• Septic and bore permits</li> <li>• Issuing of Water extraction licences</li> <li>• Capacity of Tindal-Mataranka water aquifer</li> <li>• Transfer of water licenses on subdivision of land</li> </ul>
<b>Transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal Government indexation of fuel excise</li> <li>• Funding for road infrastructure</li> <li>• Bus Privatisation and tender process</li> <li>• Open speed limits</li> <li>• Road transport of cattle</li> <li>• Beef roads upgrade program</li> <li>• Cost of road construction in the NT</li> <li>• Regulations regarding road transport of nuclear waste</li> <li>• Vehicle inspections</li> <li>• Subleasing of taxi licences</li> <li>• Serious incidents at bus interchanges</li> <li>• Seat belts and air conditioning on School buses</li> <li>• Unregistered vehicles in the NT</li> <li>• Outsourcing of licence examiners</li> <li>• Safety regulations for recreational vessels</li> <li>• Funding for cycle paths</li> <li>• Aviation policy</li> <li>• Cost benefit analysis of ticketing machines in buses</li> <li>• Pollution of Port of Darwin</li> </ul>
<b>Infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commonwealth/Territory infrastructure funding split re new works and repairs and maintenance</li> <li>• Completion date Darwin Correctional Facility</li> <li>• Funding for upgrade, repairs and maintenance of Roper Highway</li> <li>• Expansion of East Arm Wharf and completion date for Marine Supply Base</li> </ul>

PORTFOLIO	ISSUES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Status of construction plans and procurement options for Palmerston Hospital</li> <li>• Boat ramps Shady Camp and Dundee</li> <li>• Trial of heat resistant bitumen</li> <li>• Land tenure negotiations and impact on projects</li> <li>• Maintenance of barge landings</li> <li>• Construction and refurbishment of Aboriginal housing under NPARIH program</li> <li>• Aboriginal employment requirements under NPARIH program</li> <li>• Departmental input in to Darwin Land Use Plan</li> <li>• Studies or proposals to dam NT rivers</li> <li>• Industrial land development at Glyde Point</li> <li>• Status of Youth Justice Court project</li> <li>• Departmental Power and Water costs</li> </ul>
<b>Multicultural Affairs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facility and community support Grants</li> <li>• Ministerial Advisory Council</li> <li>• Impact of proposed amendments to the Federal Racial Discrimination legislation</li> <li>• Engagement with refugees at Wickham point and Airport</li> <li>• Issues associated with settlement of members of the African community</li> <li>• Multicultural festivals</li> </ul>
<b>Senior Territorians</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing options for seniors</li> <li>• Cuts to Federal and NT seniors and carers concession scheme</li> <li>• Grants for seniors groups</li> <li>• Aged care beds</li> <li>• Aged care facilities in the rural area</li> <li>• Ministerial Advisory Council</li> <li>• Means testing of seniors</li> </ul>
<b>Young Territorians</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority areas for youth over the next 12 months</li> <li>• Youth round table</li> <li>• Youth Participation Framework</li> <li>• Neighbourhood Activity Centres</li> <li>• Youth Affairs website and online networking</li> <li>• Bike share youth activity proposal Tennant Creek</li> </ul>
<b>Community Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Departmental policy commitments</li> <li>• Details of contracts, grants and donations</li> <li>• Indigenous employment opportunities</li> <li>• Indigenous business development program</li> <li>• Regional economic development fund</li> <li>• Demographic research relating to service delivery requirements in remote communities</li> <li>• Federal funding for Indigenous service delivery</li> <li>• Stronger Futures National Partnership Agreement</li> <li>• Risks associated with Local Implementation Plans</li> <li>• Homelands Extra Program</li> </ul>



PORTFOLIO	ISSUES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accountability of remote service providers</li> <li>• Indigenous essential service delivery</li> <li>• Impact of changes to Power and Water Corporation on Indigenous Essential Services Pty Ltd</li> <li>• Pensioner concessions for power card users</li> <li>• Municipal and essential services delivery implementation plan</li> <li>• Funding for asbestos removal in remote communities</li> <li>• Remote public housing and infrastructure leases</li> <li>• Power supply to housing at One Mile Dam</li> <li>• Indigenous home ownership</li> <li>• Funding for language services</li> <li>• Indigenous Circles initiative</li> <li>• Men's policy initiatives</li> <li>• Impact of changes to the Sacred Sites Act</li> <li>• Mechanisms for the protection of Sacred Sites</li> <li>• Aboriginal Protection Authority (APA) input to review of seabed mining</li> <li>• APA consultation with Traditional owners regarding damage to sacred sites in National Parks</li> <li>• Impact of budget savings on APA staff and programs</li> </ul>
<b>Women's Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women's policy initiatives and associated funding</li> <li>• Staffing in the Office of Women's Advancement</li> <li>• Budget for Women's and Men's policy</li> <li>• Office of Women's Advancement forums</li> </ul>
<b>Parks &amp; Wildlife</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of rangers</li> <li>• Number of visitors to NT parks</li> <li>• Submissions by Parks and Wildlife Commission regarding impact of water extraction licence applications on NT parks</li> <li>• Management of crocodiles – crocwise program</li> <li>• Parks and Wildlife Master Plan</li> <li>• Joint management options for NT parks</li> <li>• Asbestos removal program</li> <li>• Departmental budget savings</li> <li>• Staffing levels and classifications</li> <li>• Parks and Wildlife grants</li> <li>• Cane toad management and species resilience</li> <li>• Advertising, marketing and sponsorship expenditure</li> <li>• Howard Springs Community Advisory Committee</li> </ul>

Ms Lia Finocchiaro MLA  
CHAIR