



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

NOTICES OF MOTION

All decisions of the Assembly begin as motions moved by Members. The first step is usually for a Member to give notice of their intention to move a motion; therefore a Notice of Motion signals a potential decision of the Assembly.

What is a Notice of Motion?

Notice is required for all motions except where the Standing Orders provide otherwise.

Notices of Motion usually give notice for the introduction of a bill or of a matter for debate.

Giving notice allows for the more efficient running of the Assembly. It allows the Government, the Opposition and independent Members time to prepare for business so that a higher quality of debate occurs.

How is notice given?

Each Meeting Day, time is set aside at 2.00pm for giving notice. A Member gives notice by seeking the call in the Chamber, giving the notice orally and delivering a signed copy to the Clerk (usually through the Table Office).

Are there rules about the content of notices?

Standing Orders set out the rules for notices. A notice must:

- be signed by the Member
- propose a day for the moving of the motion – usually the next Meeting Day (or next General Business Day), or a specific date or a number of meeting days into the future
- not contain unparliamentary language or breach any Standing Orders

Notices may be edited prior to being placed on the *Notice Paper*. The Speaker may instruct the Clerk to amend the notice to comply with Standing Orders or divide the notice into two or more notices if it contains matters not relevant to each other.

The Speaker may also decide that a notice that does not conform with Standing Orders is not placed on the *Notice Paper*.

Who owns a Notice of Motion?

A Notice of Motion belongs to the Member who gave it until the motion is moved. Then it belongs to, or is 'in the possession of', the Assembly. Before moving a motion, a Member may alter its terms or change the day for moving it. A Member may also withdraw a Notice of Motion at any time before it is moved. Because the Member owns the notice, leave is not required to withdraw it.

Amending a Notice of Motion

Notices may be amended by a Member before they are moved. Members may alter a notice by notifying the Assembly and delivering an amended Notice of Motion to the Clerk. This can occur on the same day or any day prior to moving the motion.

Changing the day for moving a motion

A notice may be postponed to a later date but cannot be brought forward. To postpone a notice, Members notify the Clerk in writing any time prior to the motion being called. The Clerk reports the change of date to the Assembly at the first convenient opportunity.

SUMMARY

The purpose of a Notice of Motion is to give advance warning of a potential decision

Notices of Motion are placed on the *Notice Paper* once given

A notice of Motion belongs to the Member who gave it until the motion is moved. Then it belongs to, or is 'in the possession of', the Assembly