



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**Public Accounts Committee**

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# **Associated Minutes of Proceedings**

## **Annual Report 2024-25**

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**October 2025**





# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15<sup>th</sup> Assembly

## Public Accounts Committee

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

#### Meeting No. 1

10.45 am, Wednesday 30 October 2024  
Litchfield room

**Present:** Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale  
Mrs Laurie Zio, MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay  
Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura  
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston  
Mr Brian O’Gallagher, Member for Karama

**Secretariat:** Mr Russell Keith, Clerk  
Ms Klarin Sivyer, Acting Deputy Clerk  
Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

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#### 1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Pursuant to Standing Order 186, the Committee Secretary called for nominations for Chair.

Mr O’Gallagher nominated Mr Howe to be Chair. Mrs Laurie Zio seconded the nomination and Mr Howe accepted the nomination.

There being no other nominations, the Committee Secretary declared Mr Howe to be the Chair.

#### 2. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

The Chair called for nominations for Deputy Chair.

Mr Howe nominated Mrs Zio to be Deputy Chair. Mr O’Gallagher seconded the nomination and Mrs Zio accepted the nomination.

There being no other nominations, the Chair declared Mrs Zio to be the Deputy Chair.

#### 3. PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

Mr Howe moved and J. Davis seconded that:

Pursuant to Standing Order 194(1), the committee authorises the publication of public hearing transcripts after witnesses have had three business days to make corrections.

Question put and passed

Mr Howe moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

Pursuant to Standing Order 194(3)(b), subject to the directions of the Chair, the committee authorises the Committee Secretary divulging evidence, documents, proceedings or reports on a confidential basis to the Auditor-General for comment.

Question put and passed.

Mr Howe moved and Mr O’Gallagher seconded that:

Pursuant to Standing Order 194(4), the committee authorises the Chair of the committee to issue media releases and give briefings on matters relating to its inquiry.

Question put and passed.

#### **4. BRIEFING NOTE – COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAM**

Noted.

#### **5. PETITIONS**

In relation to Petition No. 1 regarding suspension of transitioning treatments for children in the Northern Territory, Mr Howe moved that:

Before the next meeting, the Committee Secretary forward copies of the Cass Review and any other similar reviews of gender identity services for children and young people undertaken in Australasia to all committee members for consideration at the committee's next meeting.

Question put and passed.

In relation to Petition No. 2 regarding the installation of driver protection screens on all Darwin buses, Mr Howe moved that:

The committee does not recommend the petition for debate as the matter is already being actioned by the Government.

Question put and passed.

#### **6. INQUIRY REFERRAL**

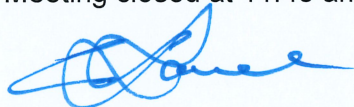
The committee considered the inquiry referral received from the Treasurer, Hon Bill Yan MLA, regarding the Howard Springs Accommodation Village and costs associated with the Flood Evacuation March/April 2023.

The Committee agreed that the Committee Secretary, in consultation with the Chair, would develop an inquiry work plan incorporating options for the conduct of the inquiry for consideration at the committee's next meeting.

#### **7. NEXT MEETING**

9.00 am, Tuesday 12 November 2024

Meeting closed at 11.43 am.



**Mr Clinton Howe, MLA**  
**Chair**



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15<sup>th</sup> Assembly

## Public Accounts Committee

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

#### Meeting No. 2

9.00 am, Tuesday 12 November 2024  
Litchfield room

- Present:** Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale  
Mrs Laurie Zio, MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay  
Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura  
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston  
Mr Brian O’Gallagher, Member for Karama
- Secretariat:** Ms Klarin Sivyler, Acting Deputy Clerk  
Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer
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#### 1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr Howe moved and Mrs Zio seconded that

The Minutes of Meeting No. 1 of 30 October 2024 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

#### 2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Noted

#### 3. INQUIRY REFERRAL

Mr Howe moved and Mr O’Gallagher seconded that:

1. The committee invite representatives from the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet to appear before the committee at a private briefing from 9.00 am – 11.00 am on Tuesday 10 December 2024 to respond to the committee’s questions as amended regarding the March/April 2023 Flood Evacuation to the Howard Springs Accommodation Centre.
2. The Chair write to the Speaker on behalf of the committee advising her of receipt of an inquiry referral from the Treasurer, the Hon Bill Yan MLA, regarding the Howard Springs Accommodation Centre – Costs Associated with Flood Evacuation March/April 2023 on 29 October 2024 and requesting that she advise the Legislative Assembly of the inquiry referral when the Assembly next meets.

Questions put and passed.

#### 4. PETITIONS

The committee further considered Petition Nos 1 and 2 and agreed as follows:

- a) Petition No. 1: request a private briefing from representatives from the Department of Health at 11.00 am on Tuesday 10 December 2024 regarding transitioning treatments for children in the Northern Territory.
- b) Petition No. 2: write to the Minister for Logistics and Infrastructure and request clarification regarding the timeframe for completion of the installation of driver protection screens on all Darwin buses.


**5. MEMBERS ACCESS FOLDERS**

Noted. Members to advise secretariat if they experience any issues accessing the PAC folder on their M Drive.

**6. NEXT MEETING**

12.30 pm, Wednesday 27 November 2024

Meeting closed at 9.50 am.



**Mr Clinton Howe, MLA**  
**Chair**



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15<sup>th</sup> Assembly

## Public Accounts Committee

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

#### Meeting No. 3

12.30 pm, Wednesday 27 November 2024  
Litchfield room

**Present:** Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale  
Mrs Laurie Zio, MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay  
Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura  
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston  
Mr Brian O’Gallagher, Member for Karama

**Secretariat:** Ms Klarin Sivyver, Acting Deputy Clerk  
Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

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#### 1. BRIEFING FROM THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

The Auditor-General briefed the committee on his November 2024 report.

#### 2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr O’Gallagher moved and Mr Brown seconded that

The Minutes of Meeting No. 2 of 12 November 2024 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

#### 3. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted

#### 4. PETITIONS

The committee considered Petition No. 2 regarding installation of driver protection screens on all Darwin buses. As per the media release from the Minister for Logistics and Infrastructure of 19 November 2024 advising that screens have now been installed in all buses across the Darwin and Alice Springs bus network, the committee agreed not to recommend the petition for debate.

#### 5. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Howe moved and Mr O’Gallagher seconded that:

Training be provided to all PAC members in investigative/forensic questioning techniques.

Question put and passed.

It was further agreed that the Committee Secretary explore potential training opportunities for consideration by the committee at its next meeting.

#### 6. NEXT MEETING

9.00 am, Tuesday 10 December 2024 – Private Briefings

Meeting closed at 1.20 pm.

**Mr Clinton Howe, MLA**  
Chair



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15<sup>th</sup> Assembly

## Public Accounts Committee

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

#### Meeting No. 4

9.10 am, Tuesday 10 December 2024  
Litchfield room

**Present:** Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale  
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay  
Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura  
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston  
Mr Brian O’Gallagher, Member for Karama

**Secretariat:** Ms Klarin Sivyver, Acting Deputy Clerk  
Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

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#### 1. PRIVATE BRIEFING – HOWARD SPRINGS ACCOMMODATION CENTRE – COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH FLOOD EVACUATION MARCH/APRIL 2024

The committee heard from the following witnesses:

- Ms Louise McCormick: Chief Executive Officer – Department of Logistics and Infrastructure
- Mr Michael Murphy APM: Commissioner of Police and co-Chair Territory Emergency Management Council – NT Police
- Ms Kim Charles: Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Strategic Enabling Services – Department of Health (and former Chief Finance Officer of former Dept of Territory Families, Housing and Communities)
- Ms Gabrielle Brown: General Manager, Strategy and Programs, Department of Children and Families.

The witnesses withdrew.

#### 2. PRIVATE BRIEFING - TRANSITIONING TREATMENTS FOR CHILDREN IN THE NT

The committee heard from the following witnesses:

- Mr Chris Hosking: Chief Executive – Department of Health
- Dr Jeremy Chin: Chief Medical Officer – Department of Health
- Dr Christine Connors: Chief Health Officer – Department of Health
- Dr Angela Titmuss: Paediatric Endocrinologist – Department of Health

The witnesses withdrew.

#### 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr Howe moved and Mr O’Gallagher seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No.3 of 27 November 2024 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

#### 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

The Committee Secretary advised that Mr Rex Wild AO KC is available to provide a one day workshop on investigative/forensic questioning techniques to PAC members – 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, Friday 7 February 2025. As agreed by the committee, the training will be offered to all back bench and cross bench members.

#### 5. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Hon Robyn Lambley MLA: Referral to the PAC – NT Government Road Works in the Alice Springs CBD, 28/11/2024.

The committee agreed to accept the referral from the Member for Araluen. With a view to holding a public hearing in Alice Springs between the February and March 2025 sittings, it was further agreed to invite the Member for Araluen to discuss the matter with the committee via Teams at 3.30 pm, Thursday 12 December 2024.

b) Hon Bill Yan MLA: Petition No. 2, 29/11/2024 – response noted.

#### 6. PETITIONS

The committee considered petition 1 and petitions 3 – 7 and agreed as follows:

No. 1: for further consideration.

No. 3: recommended for debate.

No. 4: not recommended for debate.

No. 5: write to the Minister for Health and request a response to the matters raised in the petition.

No. 6: write to the Minister for Lands, Planning and the Environment and request a response to the matters raised in the petition.

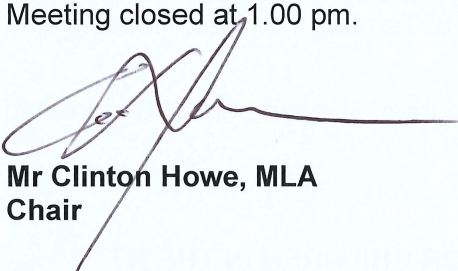
No. 7: recommended for debate.

#### 7. NEXT MEETINGS

3.30 pm Thursday 12 December 2024 via TEAMS to discuss referral to PAC with Member for Araluen

12.00 pm, Wednesday 12 February 2025

Meeting closed at 1.00 pm.



**Mr Clinton Howe, MLA**  
Chair



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15<sup>th</sup> Assembly

## Public Accounts Committee

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

#### Meeting No. 5

3.30 pm, Thursday 12 December 2024

Litchfield room

- Present:** Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale  
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay  
Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura
- Apologies:** Mr Brian O’Gallagher, Member for Karama  
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston
- Secretariat:** Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

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#### 1. PRIVATE BRIEFING: INQUIRY REFERRAL FROM MEMBER FOR ARALUEN

Hon Robyn Lambley MLA briefed the committee on the inquiry referral regarding NT Government Road Works in the Alice Springs CBD.

Mr Howe moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

The Chair circulate proposed scope of the inquiry to committee members for their approval with a view to calling for submissions next week to be received by close of business 24 January 2025.

Question put and passed.

Mr Howe moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The Chair write to the Speaker on behalf of the committee advising her that the committee has agreed to inquire into the NT Government Road Works in the Alice Springs CBD as set out in the referral received on 28 November 2024, and requesting that she advise the Legislative Assembly of its acceptance of the inquiry referral when the Assembly next meets.

Question put and passed.

#### 2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr Howe moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No.4 of 10 December 2024 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

#### 3. NEXT MEETING

12.00 pm, Wednesday 12 February 2025

Meeting closed at 4.00 pm.

**Mr Clinton Howe, MLA**  
**Chair**



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15<sup>th</sup> Assembly

## Public Accounts Committee

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

#### Meeting No. 6

12.16 pm, Wednesday 12 February 2025  
Litchfield room

**Present:** Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale  
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay  
Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura  
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston  
Mr Brian O’Gallagher, Member for Karama

**Secretariat:** Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer  
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

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#### 1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mrs Zio moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 5 of 12 December 2024 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

#### 2. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted

#### 3. INQUIRY REFERRAL – HOWARD SPRINGS ACCOMMODATION CENTRE – COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH FLOOD EVACUATION MARCH/APRIL 2024

Mr Howe moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

Members read the transcript from the private briefing and note any further questions they have, taking into consideration the inquiry terms of reference, for discussion at the next meeting.

Question put and passed.

Committee Secretary to circulate copy of the questions the committee had of witnesses, the response to the question taken on notice, and the associated private briefing transcript.

#### 4. INQUIRY REFERRAL – NT GOVERNMENT ROAD WORKS IN THE ALICE SPRINGS CBD

Mr Howe moved and Mr O’Gallagher seconded that:

The Chair write to the Chief Executive Officer: Department of Logistics and Infrastructure to advise that the Committee had resolved to pause its inquiry until such time as the contract/s to which the inquiry relates are completed and to ascertain a timeframe for finalisation of the project.

Question put and passed.

#### 5. DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH AUDITOR-GENERAL

Mr Howe moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

The Committee enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Auditor-General as set out in the draft MOU, and invite the Auditor-General to attend the committee’s next meeting to sign the MOU.

Question put and passed.

## 6. PETITIONS

The committee considered petitions 1, 5 and 6 and resolved as follows:

No.1 – not recommended for debate.

The Chair noted that while he did not agree with the committee's decision, he acknowledged that the committee had conducted a thorough and fair process regarding a very sensitive issue and thanked departmental representatives for providing a comprehensive briefing to the committee.

No. 5 – not recommended for debate.

No. 6 – not recommended for debate.

Mr Howe moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The Committee Secretary seek advice from the Clerk regarding options for notifying petitioners of the committee's decisions regarding the debate of petitions.

Question put and passed.

## 7. PROPOSED INQUIRY: INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT PROVISIONAL SUM

Justine Davis moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

The committee conduct an inquiry into the misuse of funds relating to the Indigenous Employment Provisional Sum.

Question put and negatived.

## 8. NEXT MEETING

12.00 pm, Wednesday 19 March 2025

Meeting closed at 1.20 pm



**Mr Clinton Howe, MLA**  
**Chair**



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15<sup>th</sup> Assembly

## Public Accounts Committee

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

#### Meeting No. 7

12.10 pm, Wednesday 19 March 2025  
Litchfield room

**Present:** Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale  
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay  
Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura  
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston  
Mr Brian O’Gallagher, Member for Karama

**Secretariat:** Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer  
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

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#### 1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mrs Zio moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 6 of 12 February 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

#### 2. BRIEFING FROM THE AUDITOR- GENERAL AND SIGNING OF MOU

- The Auditor-General briefed the Committee on the 2024 Strategic Review of the NT Auditor-General’s Office.
- The Auditor-General and the Chair of the Committee signed the Memorandum of Understanding.

The Auditor-General withdrew from the meeting.

#### 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- In relation to a reporting mechanism regarding Action on Petitions, Mr Howe moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

Where the Committee resolves not to recommend a petition for debate, the Committee will develop a statement that the Chair can provide to the media and other interested parties regarding the status of the petition should any inquiries be received.

Question put and passed.

- In relation to the Committee’s inquiry into Costs Associated with the 2023 Flood Evacuation to the Howard Springs Accommodation Centre, it was agreed that there was little benefit in holding a public hearing given that the former Commissioner of Police and former Chief Executive of the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet were no longer available. To facilitate report drafting Mr O’Gallagher moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

The Committee Secretary contact witnesses that appeared before the Committee at its 10 December 2024 private briefing to seek permission to use the information provided for reporting purposes and ascertain whether there is any part of their evidence that should not be referred to or quoted in the Committee’s report.

Question put and passed.

**4. CORRESPONDENCE**

Noted.

**5. INQUIRY REFERRAL – NT GOVERNMENT ROAD WORKS IN THE ALICE SPRINGS CBD**

Mr Howe moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

In light of the advice from the Chief Executive Officer: Department of Logistics and Infrastructure, and not wishing to jeopardise or diminish the contractual rights and obligations of contracting parties, the Committee suspend its inquiry into NT Government Road Works in the Alice Springs CBD until such time as these contracts have been finalised and that the Committee notify the Speaker accordingly.

Question put and passed.

**6. DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH AUDITOR-GENERAL**

Mr Howe moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

The Committee enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Auditor-General as set out in the draft MOU, and invite the Auditor-General to attend the committee's next meeting to sign the MOU.

Question put and passed.

**7. NEW INQUIRY REFERRAL – ACACIA DIGITAL PATIENT RECORD SYSTEM**

Mr Howe moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The Committee agree to the proposed inquiry plan as set out in the briefing note.

Question put and passed.

The Committee further agreed that Member for Blain, Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, be invited to participate in public hearings on this matter given his technical expertise.

**8. PETITIONS**

The committee considered petition No. 8 regarding Port Keats road upgrade and requested the committee secretariat to check Hansard to ascertain whether the Minister's response to the petition when it was introduced included an indicative timeframe for the road works.

**9. NEXT MEETING**

12.00 pm, Wednesday 26 March 2025

Meeting closed at 1.33 pm



**Mr Clinton Howe, MLA**  
**Chair**



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15<sup>th</sup> Assembly

## Public Accounts Committee

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

#### Meeting No. 8

12.06 pm, Wednesday 26 March 2025  
Litchfield room

**Present:** Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale  
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay  
Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura  
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston  
Mr Brian O’Gallagher, Member for Karama

**Secretariat:** Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer  
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

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#### 1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mrs Zio moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 7 of 19 March 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

#### 2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

The Committee Secretary noted that all witnesses, with the exception of Gabrielle Brown who is currently out of the office, had advised that they have no issues with the Committee referring to and quoting from the transcript of the private briefing on Costs Associated with the 2023 Flood Evacuation to the Howard Springs Accommodation Village for the purposes of report drafting.

Mr Howe moved and Mr O’Gallagher seconded that:

The Chair’s draft report *Inquiry into Costs Associated with the 2023 Flood Evacuation to the Howard Springs Accommodation Village*, should highlight lessons learnt and future planning considerations.

Question put and passed.

#### 3. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted.

#### 4. PETITIONS

Mr Howe moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

Taking into consideration Minister Yan’s response regarding upgrade of the Port Keats Road (Daily Hansard 12 February 2025), the Committee did not consider that Petition No. 8 should be recommended for debate.

Question put and passed.

#### 5. ACTION ON STRATEGIC REVIEW OF NT AUDITOR-GENERAL’S OFFICE

Justine Davis moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

The Committee Secretary prepare a briefing note on options for actioning recommendations in the 2024 Strategic Review of the NT Auditor-General's Office for consideration at the Committee's next meeting.

Question put and passed.

**6. NEXT MEETING**

12.00 pm, Wednesday 14 May 2025

Meeting closed at 12.22 pm

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Clinton Howe', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Mr Clinton Howe, MLA**  
**Chair**



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15<sup>th</sup> Assembly

## Public Accounts Committee

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

#### Meeting No. 9

12.00 pm, Wednesday 14 May 2025  
Litchfield room

**Present:** Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale  
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay  
Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura  
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston  
Mr Brian O’Gallagher, Member for Karama

**Secretariat:** Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director Parliamentary Support  
Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary  
Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer  
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

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#### 1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Justine Davis moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 8 of 26 March 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

#### 2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

The Committee Secretary noted Gabrielle Brown has advised that she has no issues with the Committee referring to and quoting from the transcript of the private briefing on Costs Associated with the 2023 Flood Evacuation to the Howard Springs Accommodation Village for the purposes of report drafting.

#### 3. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted.

#### 4. INQUIRY REFERRAL – ACACIA DIGITAL PATIENT RECORD SYSTEM

Mr Howe moved and Mr O’Gallagher seconded that:

1. The Committee authorise publication of submissions received, with the exception of submission nos. 2 and 5, redacting personal information in all submissions such as signatures, personal addresses and phone numbers prior to publication.
2. Pursuant to Standing Order 194(3)(b) the Committee authorise copies of submissions to be forwarded to the Member for Blain, Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, and that he be invited to participate in public hearings on this matter given his technical expertise.

Questions put and passed.

It was further agreed that Members determine preferred date in early July for public hearings on the Acacia Digital Patient Record System for consideration at the next meeting.

#### 5. ACTION ON STRATEGIC REVIEW OF NT AUDITOR-GENERAL’S OFFICE

Justine Davis moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

The Committee request the committee secretariat to:

- a) undertake a comparison of audit mandates across Australasian jurisdictions; and
- b) seek a briefing from the Australasian Council of Auditors General regarding the Independence of Auditors General.

Question put and passed.

## 6. INQUIRY REFERRAL – DARWIN SHIP LIFT PROJECT

Mr Howe moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

1. The Committee write to the Speaker advising her of receipt of the inquiry referral from the Treasurer, Mr Bill Yan MLA, regarding the Darwin Ship Lift Project and requesting that she advise the Legislative Assembly of the inquiry referral when the Assembly next meets.
2. Committee members provide the secretariat with the names of any other organisations or individuals they consider should be invited to make a submission for consideration at the Committee's next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 21 May 2025.

Questions put and passed.

It was further agreed that Members determine preferred date in early July for a site visit to the Darwin Port for consideration at the next meeting.

## 7. PETITIONS

### ***Petition No. 9***

Mr Howe moved and Mr O'Gallagher seconded that:

The Committee not recommend Petition No. 9 for debate in the Assembly.

3 for, 2 against.

Question put and passed.

### ***Petition No. 10***

It was agreed that the Chair would write to the responsible Minister and request information on the Berrimah Road duplication project for consideration at the Committee's next meeting.

## 8. NEXT MEETING

12.00 pm, Wednesday 21 May 2025.

Meeting closed at 12.32 pm.



**Mr Clinton Howe, MLA**  
**Chair**



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15<sup>th</sup> Assembly

## Public Accounts Committee

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

#### Meeting No. 10

12.09 pm, Wednesday 21 May 2025  
Litchfield room

- Present:** Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale  
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay  
Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura  
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston  
Mr Brian O’Gallagher, Member for Karama
- Secretariat:** Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director Parliamentary Support  
Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer  
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer
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#### 1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr Howe moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 9 of 14 May 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

#### 2. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted.

#### 3. BRIEFING NOTE: AUDITOR-GENERAL’S OFFICE

Mr Howe moved and Mr O’Gallagher seconded that:

Noting the Government’s priorities in relation to the economy, law and order, the Committee provide the following feedback to the Auditor-General:

##### ***Infrastructure Topic***

- given the Committee’s current referral from the Treasurer, remove the Darwin Ship Lift from the list of suggested follow-up audits.
- remove examination of how effectively government agencies are managing climate risk, and replace with a focus on the strategic value of proposed infrastructure, improving value for money and procurement practices.

##### ***First Nations Territorians Topic***

- rather than focussing on Department of Corrections programs relating to First Nations Territorians, consider broadening the focus to examine expenditure and value for money regarding law and order programs and initiatives more generally.

##### ***Health Topic***

- no comment

##### ***Informed Territorians Topic***

- noting the introduction of the Public Information Amendment Bill, consider deferring this topic and revisit it 12 months after the amended legislation has been in place.

Justine Davis registered her dissent regarding removal of the focus on climate risk.

Question put and passed.

#### 4. INQUIRY TIMEFRAMES

Mr Howe moved and Mrs Laurie seconded that:

1. The Committee agree to the proposed inquiry timeframes.
2. The Committee prioritise its work plan:
  - a) to meet reporting timeframes for the Darwin Ship Lift Project and Indigenous Employment Provision Sum (IEPS) inquiry referrals;
  - b) reconsider the timeframe for completion of the Acacia Digital Patient Record System at its meeting scheduled for Wednesday 22 October 2025; and
  - c) publish on its website a statement advising that public hearings on the Acacia Digital Patient Record System will be held during November 2025.

Questions put and passed.

#### 5. INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT PROVISIONAL SUM INQUIRY REFERRAL

Mr Howe moved and Mr O’Gallagher seconded that:

1. The Committee send a detailed information request to the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure on the matters raised by the Auditor-General in their November 2018 report.
2. The secretariat seek advice from the ICAC and NT Police regarding appropriate referral pathways for allegations of fraud and deceptive behaviour regarding the IEPS.
3. The Committee publish on its website a statement advising the community that it will not be handling individual allegations of fraud and deceptive behaviour and provide advice on appropriate pathways for such allegations.
4. The Committee write to the Leader of Government Business requesting that the inquiry terms of reference be amended to delete clause (c) (noting that this sits within the purview of the NT Police, the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure Investigation Unit, and the Director of Public Prosecutions), and replacing it with a new clause (c) implementation of the Auditor-general’s recommendations by the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics and outcomes to date.

Questions put and passed.

#### 6. PETITIONS

Mr Howe moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

The Chair advise the Clerk that the Committee recommends that the Assembly debate Petition No. 10.

Question put and passed.

Mr Howe moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The Chair advise the Clerk that the Committee recommends that the Assembly debate Petition No. 11.

Question put and passed.

#### 7. NEXT MEETING

9.00 am, Tuesday 8 July 2025.

Meeting closed at 12.50 pm.



**Mr Clinton Howe, MLA**  
**Chair**



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15<sup>th</sup> Assembly

## Public Accounts Committee

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

#### Meeting No. 11

1.04 pm, Tuesday 27 May 2025  
Litchfield room

**Present:** Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale  
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay  
Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura  
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston  
Mr Brian O’Gallagher, Member for Karama

**Secretariat:** Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director Parliamentary Support  
Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer  
Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary  
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

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#### 1. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted.

#### 2. INQUIRY REFERRAL – DARWIN WATERFRONT CORPORATION

Mr Howe moved and Justine Davis seconded that the Committee:

1. adopt the proposed Terms of Reference for an Inquiry into the Darwin Waterfront Corporation.
2. invite submissions from the Darwin Waterfront Corporation, AustralAsia Railway Corporation, Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet and the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment to be received by close of business Monday 2 June 2025.
3. Hold a public briefing with representatives from the Darwin Waterfront Corporation from 2.30 – 4.30 pm on Tuesday 3 June 2025.

Mr O’Gallagher recorded his concern regarding whether the PAC was the most appropriate body to undertake the inquiry.

Questions put and passed.

#### 3. NEXT MEETING

Public Briefing: 2.30 pm, Tuesday 3 June 2025.

Meeting closed at 1.43 pm.

**Mr Clinton Howe, MLA**  
Chair



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15<sup>th</sup> Assembly

## Public Accounts Committee

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

#### Meeting No. 12

2.30 pm, Tuesday 3 June 2025  
Litchfield room

- Present:** Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale  
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay  
Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura  
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston  
Mr Brian O’Gallagher, Member for Karama
- Secretariat:** Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director Parliamentary Support  
Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer  
Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary  
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

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#### 1. CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS – INQUIRY INTO THE DARWIN WATERFRONT CORPORATION

Mr Howe moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of submission nos. 1 – 4, redacting personal information in all submissions such as personal addresses and phone numbers prior to publication.

Questions put and passed.

#### 2. PUBLIC BRIEFING – INQUIRY INTO THE DARWIN WATERFRONT CORPORATION

Mr O’Gallagher publicly acknowledged that he knows Mr Alastair Shields having previously worked with him on cross agency major projects including the Railway project and the INPEX project approximately 15 years ago.

The Committee heard from the following witnesses:

Mr Patrick Bellot: Chair – Darwin Waterfront Corporation

Mr Alastair Shields: Chief Executive Officer – Darwin Waterfront Corporation

The witnesses withdrew.

#### 3. MEDIA STATEMENT – INQUIRY INTO THE DARWIN WATERFRONT CORPORATION

Mr Howe moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

The Committee publish the following media statement on its website:

Following receipt of submissions and a public briefing, the Public Accounts Committee has unanimously decided that none of the allegations as set out in the inquiry Terms of Reference are substantiated. A full report to the Legislative Assembly will follow in due course.

Question put and passed.

#### 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Mr Howe moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The minutes of meetings No. 10 of 21 May 2025 and No. 11 of 27 May 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

**5. NEXT MEETING**

Site visit Darwin Ship Lift and Deliberative Meeting: 9.00 am – 4.00 pm, Tuesday 8 July 2025.

Meeting closed at 4.25 pm.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Clinton Howe', is written in a cursive style.

**Mr Clinton Howe, MLA**  
**Chair**



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15<sup>th</sup> Assembly

## Public Accounts Committee

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

#### Meeting No. 13

9.00 am, Tuesday 8 July 2025  
11 Export Drive and Litchfield Room

- Present:** Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale  
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay  
Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura  
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston  
Mr Brian O’Gallagher, Member for Karama
- Secretariat:** Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director Parliamentary Support
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#### 1. 9.00 AM – 11.00 AM: SITE VISIT – DARWIN SHIP LIFT PROJECT

Mr Shane Dahlhelm: Executive Director, Infrastructure NT, Darwin Harbour Infrastructure Projects, Department of Logistics and Infrastructure provided members with a guided tour of the Darwin Ship Lift Project and associated Marine Maintenance Infrastructure site.

Committee re-convened at 12.00 pm in the Litchfield Room

#### 2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Mr Brown moved and Mr O’Gallagher seconded that:

The minutes of meetings No. 12 of 3 June 2025 as amended be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

#### 3. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted

#### 4. INQUIRY INTO THE DARWIN SHIP LIFT PROJECT

Justine Davis moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

- a) The Committee authorise publication of submission Nos. 1-3 and 5-6, redacting personal information in all submissions such as signatures, email addresses and phone numbers prior to publication.
- b) The Committee invite representatives from the Department of Trade, Business and Asian Relations, Paspaley Pearls Group, Department of Defence, Department of Logistics and Infrastructure and the Department of Treasury and Finance to appear before the Committee at a public hearing on Wednesday 23 July 2025.
- c) The Committee invite representatives from Clough BMD Joint Venture to appear before the Committee at a private hearing on Wednesday 23 July 2025.

Questions put and passed

#### 5. INQUIRY INTO THE INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT PROVISIONAL SUM

Justine Davis moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

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

Question put and passed.

The Committee deferred consideration of the written questions for the Department of Logistics to its next meeting. The Chair requested that any additional questions be forwarded to the secretariat.

#### 6. BRIEFING FROM THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

The Auditor-General briefed the Committee on the 2018 and 2024 audits of the Ship Lift Project and his proposed Annual Plan of Audit Work 2025-2026.

The Auditor-General withdrew from the meeting.

#### 7. CHAIR'S DRAFT REPORT – INQUIRY INTO THE DARWIN WATERFRONT CORPORATION

Mrs Zio moved and Mr O'Gallagher seconded that:

Recommendation 1 be removed from the report.

The Committee divided:

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
Mrs Zio	Justine Davis
Mr O'Gallagher	Mr Brown
Mr Howe	

Question put and passed.

Mr Howe moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The Committee adopt the Chair's draft report: *Inquiry into the Darwin Waterfront Corporation* as amended, for tabling in the Assembly on Thursday 31 July 2025.

Question put and passed.

The Chair requested that copies of dissenting reports be forwarded to the Committee Secretary.

#### 8. CHAIR'S DRAFT REPORT – INQUIRY INTO THE HOWARD SPRINGS ACCOMMODATION VILLAGE – FLOOD EVACUATION COSTS

Mr Howe moved and Mr O'Gallagher seconded that:

The Committee adopt the Chair's draft report: *Inquiry into the Howard Springs Accommodation Village – Flood Evacuation Costs*, to be tabled out of session with the Speaker on Tuesday 15 July 2025 pursuant to S)200(4), for subsequent tabling in the Assembly on Tuesday 29 July 2025.

Question put and passed.

#### 9. PETITIONS

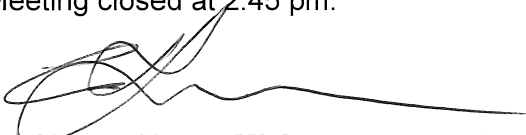
The Committee considered Petition Nos. 12, 13 and 14 and resolved as follows:

- Petition No. 12 – recommend to the Clerk that the petition be debated.
- Petition No. 13 – write to the Minister for Education and Training to ascertain enrolment numbers, current capacity of the school and any planned upgrades – for consideration at the Committee's next meeting.
- Petition No. 14 – write to the Minister for Logistics and Infrastructure for further information on the matters raised in the petition – for consideration at the Committee's next meeting.

#### 10. NEXT MEETING

Public Hearings: Darwin Ship Lift Project and Deliberative Meeting: 9.00 am – 4.00 pm, Wednesday 23 July 2025.

Meeting closed at 2.45 pm.



**Mr Clinton Howe, MLA**  
**Chair**



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15<sup>th</sup> Assembly

## Public Accounts Committee

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

#### Meeting No. 14

9.00 am, Thursday 24 July 2025  
Litchfield Room

**Present:** Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale  
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay  
Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura  
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston  
Mr Brian O’Gallagher, Member for Karama

**Secretariat:** Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

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#### 1. PUBLIC HEARING – INQUIRY INTO DARWIN SHIP LIFT

The Committee heard from the following witnesses:

##### **Department of Trade, Business and Asian Relations**

Hayley Richards: Chief Executive Officer

Joseph Kuhn: Senior Director, Supply Chains and Industry

##### **Questions Taken on Notice**

1. What is the department’s role in ensuring that agencies use and comply with the Project Development Framework?

The witnesses withdrew.

##### **Department of Treasury and Finance**

Tim McManus: Under Treasurer

Mick Butler: Deputy Under Treasurer

Jason Robertson: Executive Director (Economics)

##### **Questions Taken on Notice**

1. What will the cost be to the Northern Territory of the total borrowings for this project?

The witnesses withdrew.

##### **Department of Logistics and Infrastructure**

Louise McCormick: Chief Executive Officer

Joanna Pethick: Acting Executive Director Infrastructure NT

##### **Questions Taken on Notice**

1. Does the maintenance liability cover fixtures and fittings, whitegoods etc?
2. From what date did the governance and project control sit under your agency?
3. Could you report back on implementation of the recommendations from the Auditor-General?
4. Could the department please provide a figure of money that has already been expended or committed to date?
5. What proportion of the land was land and what proportion of it was water for the land swap?
6. Can you provide further details of the cost sharing for the collaborative construction contract?

The witnesses withdrew.

**2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Mr O’Gallagher moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

The minutes of meeting No. 13 of 8 July 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

**3. CORRESPONDENCE**

Noted

**4. PETITIONS**

The Committee considered responses from Ministers regarding Petition Nos 13 and 14 and resolved to advise the Clerk that it recommended that Petition No. 14 be debated.

**5. INQUIRY INTO THE DARWIN SHIP LIFT PROJECT**

Mr Howe moved and Mr O’Gallagher seconded that:

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, write to the Treasurer to seek an extension to the reporting date for the Inquiry into the Darwin Ship Lift Project from tabling in the September 2025 sittings to tabling on or before 31 October 2025.

Question put and passed.

**6. INQUIRY INTO THE INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT PROVISIONAL SUM**

Mr Howe moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

The Committee forward the written questions to the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure for response by Friday 15 August 2025.

Question put and passed.

**7. REVIEW OF ESTIMATES PROCESS**

It was agreed that the Secretariat would prepare a briefing note on Estimates processes in other jurisdictions for consideration at a future meeting of the Committee.

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr Howe moved and Mr O’Gallagher seconded that:

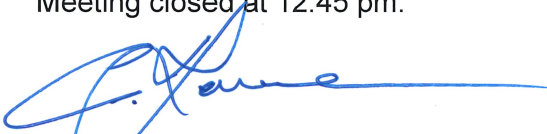
The Correspondence from James Paspaley be forwarded to the Minister for Logistics and Infrastructure for his information.

Question put and passed.

**9. NEXT MEETING**

Deliberative meeting 2.00 pm, Wednesday 13 August 2025

Meeting closed at 12.45 pm.



**Mr Clinton Howe, MLA**  
**Chair**



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15<sup>th</sup> Assembly

## Public Accounts Committee

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

#### Meeting No. 15

2.00 pm, Wednesday 13 August 2025  
Litchfield Room

**Present:** Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale  
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay  
Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura  
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston  
Mr Brian O’Gallagher, Member for Karama

**Secretariat:** Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

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#### 1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Justine Davis moved and Mr O’Gallagher seconded that:

The minutes of meeting No. 14 of 24 July 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

#### 2. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr Howe moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

The Committee write to the Treasurer noting the Government’s position regarding participation by Paspaley and Clough BMD Joint Venture in the Committee’s inquiry into the Ship Lift Project, agreeing to the suggested protocol to streamline proceedings and requesting that the Treasurer issue a consent letter to Paspaley and Clough BMD Joint Venture regarding confidentiality clauses for the limited purpose of giving evidence and producing documents to the Committee.

Question put and passed.

Mr Howe moved and Mr O’Gallagher seconded that:

The Committee write to the Chief Executive Officer, Department of Logistics and Infrastructure, requesting that:

- a. copies of any agreements between the Northern Territory Government and Paspaley or Clough BMD Joint venture in relation to the Darwin Ship Lift Project are forwarded to the Committee Secretary as per the Treasurer’s advice.
- b. that representatives from the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure brief the Committee on the contents of tabled agreements at its next meeting scheduled for Friday 5 September 2025.

Question put and passed.

Mr Howe moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The Auditor-General be invited to brief the Committee on his report No. 1: 2025-26 at its next meeting scheduled for Friday 5 September 2025.

Question put and passed.

Mr Howe moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

The Committee agree to the extension sought by the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure regarding provision of responses to written questions on the IEPS.

Question put and passed.

### **3. INQUIRY INTO THE DARWIN SHIP LIFT PROJECT**

Justine Davis moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of the responses to questions taken on notice from the Department of Treasury and Finance and the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure redacting any confidential information.

Question put and passed.

The Committee also agreed to hold a further public hearing on Wednesday 17 September 2025.

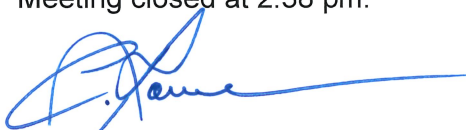
The Chair requested that Members save proposed questions for witnesses in the relevant Members Access folder. Committee Secretary to email file path to Members and compile contributions for consideration at the Committee's next meeting

### **4. NEXT MEETING**

Private Briefings and Deliberative meeting 10.00 am – 12.00 pm, Friday 5 September 2025

Public Hearing 1.00 pm – 5.00 pm, Wednesday 17 September 2025

Meeting closed at 2.38 pm.



**Mr Clinton Howe, MLA**  
**Chair**



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15<sup>th</sup> Assembly

## Public Accounts Committee

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

#### Meeting No. 16

10.00 am, Friday 5 September 2025  
Litchfield Room

**Present:** Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale  
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay  
Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura  
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston  
Mr Brian O’Gallagher, Member for Karama

**Secretariat:** Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Mr Will Dreyer, Senior Research Officer

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#### 1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Justine Davis moved and Mr O’Gallagher seconded that:

The minutes of meeting No. 15 of 13 August 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

#### 2. BRIEFING FROM THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

The Auditor-General, Mr Jara Dean, briefed the Committee on the following reports to the Legislative Assembly:

- Results of Financial Audits, Report No. 1: 2025-26
- Effectiveness of Internal Audit and Audit Committees, Report No. 3: 2025-26

The Auditor-General withdrew from the meeting.

#### 3. BRIEFING FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LOGISTICS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The following departmental representatives briefed the Committee on the terms of agreements associated with the Darwin Ship Lift Project.

Ms Gemma Lake: Acting Chief Executive Officer

Ms Giovina d’Alessandro: Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Ms Joanna Pethick: Acting Executive Director

The departmental representatives withdrew from the meeting.

#### 4. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted

#### 5. INQUIRY INTO THE DARWIN SHIP LIFT PROJECT

It was agreed that:

- proposed questions of the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure be forwarded to the Department for a written response to be received by Friday 26 September 2025.

The Chair requested that Members provide any additional questions for witnesses to the Committee Secretary by Tuesday 9 September 2025.

- Committee Secretary to draft letters inviting Paspaley and Clough BMD to appear before the Committee at a public hearing on 17 September 2025 and providing an indicative topic list or question themes to allow targeted preparation, for the Chair's consideration.

**6. INQUIRY INTO THE INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT PROVISIONAL SUM**

Consideration of responses to written questions from the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure deferred to next deliberative meeting.

**7. PETITIONS**

Consideration of Petition No. 15 deferred to next deliberative meeting.

**8. NEXT MEETING**

Public Hearing 1.00 pm – 5.00 pm, Wednesday 17 September 2025

Meeting closed at 12.30 pm.



**Mr Clinton Howe, MLA**  
**Chair**



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15<sup>th</sup> Assembly

## Public Accounts Committee

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

#### Meeting No. 17

1.00 pm, Wednesday 17 September 2025  
Litchfield Room

- Present:** Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale  
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay  
Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura  
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston  
Mr Brian O’Gallagher, Member for Karama
- Secretariat:** Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Mr Will Dreyer, Senior Research Officer
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#### 1. PUBLIC HEARING – INQUIRY INTO DARWIN SHIP LIFT

The Committee heard from the following witnesses:

##### **Clough BMD Joint Venture**

Jeff Gallus: Executive General Manager, Constructions

John Galvin: Chief Bidding, Engineering & Concessions Officer

Nicole Whitby: Legal representative for Clough BMD Joint Venture

##### **Questions Taken on Notice**

1. Can you provide a breakdown of cost increases associated with project delays, construction materials inflation and labour inflation?
2. How do you determine whether employees are locals?
3. In the event that the Northern Territory Government stopped this project, what are the rights that Clough has and what would the likely cost to the NTG be?

The witnesses withdrew.

##### **Paspaley Pearls Group**

James Paspaley: Executive Director

Dr Samuel Buchanan: Chief Operating Officer

##### **Questions Taken on Notice**

1. Could you provide a list of third-party businesses or consultants that have been engaged throughout the process?
2. Are you able to provide an overview of the costs that you have incurred in the last 10 years.

The witnesses withdrew.

##### **Department of Logistics and Infrastructure**

Gemma Lake: Acting Chief Executive Officer

Joanna Pethick: Acting Executive Director Infrastructure NT

Giovina D’Alessandro: General Manager Infrastructure NT

##### **Questions Taken on Notice**

1. What specific documents were withheld from the Auditor-General and why?

2. In the future, how will NTG ensure that key decision documents are available for audit without compromising commercial interests?
3. For decisions where documentation was withheld, what steps if any were taken to verify that the decisions are still defensible?
4. What are the ongoing maintenance cost estimates?

The witnesses withdrew.

## **2. INQUIRY INTO THE INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT PROVISIONAL SUM**

The Committee agreed to request representatives from the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure to appear before it at a public hearing from 9.00 am to 10.00 am on Thursday 25 September 2025.

## **3. NEXT MEETING**

Public Hearing: 9.00 am to 10.00 am, Thursday 25 September 2025 – Inquiry into the Indigenous Employment Provisional Sum.

Meeting closed at 4.40 pm.



**Mr Clinton Howe, MLA**  
**Chair**



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15<sup>th</sup> Assembly

## Public Accounts Committee

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

#### Meeting No. 18

9.00 am, Thursday 25 September 2025  
Litchfield Room

- Present:** Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay  
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston  
Mr Brian O’Gallagher, Member for Karama
- Apologies:** Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura  
Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale
- Secretariat:** Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Mr Will Dreyer, Senior Research Officer

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#### 1. PUBLIC HEARING – INQUIRY INTO THE INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT PROVISIONAL SUM

The Committee heard from the following witnesses:

##### **Department of Logistics and Infrastructure**

Adam Walding: Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
Fotis Papadakis: Acting Chief Operating Officer

##### **Questions Taken on Notice**

1. Could you elaborate on how many contractors and contracts were involved in the \$48.8m that was paid prior to the suspension of the scheme?
2. In terms of Aboriginal employment, does that apply to bringing Indigenous people from interstate onto contracts here, or do they have to be local Indigenous people?
3. In terms of verification you talk about ICN – Industry Capability Network, Northern Territory. What are the other ones? Is it Supply Nation? Who do you use as a verification of Indigenous business?
4. In relation to training in management plan requirements, risk management and fraud awareness, how often is this type of training provided to departmental staff and what qualifications or skills are required of staff involved in contract management?
5. How many contractors voluntarily provided additional information to verify claims and how many did not? What was the total value of those contracts?
6. The committee understands that DIPL engaged with an expert determiner to resolve a dispute with one contractor in relation to an identified overpayment. What was the value of that overpayment?
7. How often does the department require contractors to provide confirmation of Aboriginality in relation to their employees? Has the department given any consideration to mandating confirmation of Aboriginality? If not, why not?

The Department also undertook to provide the Committee with a copy of the contractor performance scorecard and the contractor performance reporting policy.

The witnesses withdrew.

**2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Justine Davis moved and Mr O’Gallagher seconded that:

The Minutes of meeting No. 16 of 5 September and meeting No. 17 of 17 September 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

**3. INQUIRY INTO THE INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT PROVISIONAL SUM**

Mr O’Gallagher moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of the responses to written questions from the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure, redacting any sections marked confidential.

Question put and passed.

**4. NEXT MEETING**

10.00 am Friday 10 October 2025

Meeting closed at 9.50 pm.



**Mr Clinton Howe, MLA  
Chair**



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15<sup>th</sup> Assembly

## Public Accounts Committee

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

#### Meeting No. 19

10.00 am, Friday 10 October 2025  
Litchfield Room

**Present:** Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale  
Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura  
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston  
Mr Brian O’Gallagher, Member for Karama  
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay

**Secretariat:** Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Mr Will Dreyer, Senior Research Officer

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#### 1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Justine Davis moved and Mr O’Gallagher seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 18 of 25 September 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

#### 2. CORRESPONDENCE

- *ACPAC Conference 2026*

Mr O’Gallagher moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

The Committee’s in principle support for members to participate in professional development opportunities such as the ACPAC Conference 2026 be noted.

Question put and passed.

The Committee further agreed to discuss potential conference attendees at its next meeting.

- *Publication of Responses to Written Questions and Questions Taken on Notice*

Mr O’Gallagher moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of responses to questions taken on notice and written questions from Paspaley Pearls Group and the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure redacting any references to the submission from Clough BMD Joint Venture which remains confidential.

- *Proposed Changes to Statutory Integrity Offices*

The Committee agreed to invite the Auditor-General to brief the Committee at its next meeting on the issues raised in his correspondence regarding Proposed Changes to Statutory Integrity Offices.

#### 3. INQUIRY INTO THE INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT PROVISIONAL SUM

The Committee agreed that the Chair’s draft report should reflect the key findings and proposed recommendations as set out in the Consideration of Evidence document and discussed in the meeting.

**4. INQUIRY INTO THE DARWIN SHIP LIFT PROJECT**

The Committee agreed that the Chair's draft report should reflect the key findings and proposed recommendations as set out in the Consideration of Evidence document and discussed in the meeting.

**5. PETITIONS**

Mr O'Gallagher moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

The Committee not recommend Petition No. 15 for debate noting that there will be an opportunity to raise any concerns during the second reading of the Anti-Discrimination Amendment Bill 2025.

Question put and passed.

**6. OTHER BUSINESS**

The Committee discussed the potential timeframe for completion of the Inquiry into the Acacia Digital Patient Record System and agreed to consider the inquiry timeframe and plan in more detail at the Committee's meeting scheduled for Wednesday 22 October 2025.

**7. NEXT MEETING**

12.00 pm Wednesday 15 October 2025

Meeting closed at 11.10 pm.



**Mr Clinton Howe, MLA  
Chair**



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15<sup>th</sup> Assembly

## Public Accounts Committee

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

#### Meeting No. 20

12.00 pm, Wednesday 15 October 2025  
Litchfield Room

- Present:** Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale  
Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura  
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston  
Mr Brian O’Gallagher, Member for Karama  
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay
- Secretariat:** Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Mr Will Dreyer, Senior Research Officer
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#### 1. BRIEFING FROM THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

The Auditor-General, Mr Jara Dean, briefed the Committee on the proposed changes to Statutory Integrity Offices.

The Auditor-General withdrew from the meeting.

#### 2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Justine Davis moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 19 of 10 October 2025 be confirmed

Question put and passed.

#### 3. ACPAC CONFERENCE 2026

Mr O’Gallagher moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The Chair, Mr Clinton Howe MLA, and the Member for Arafura, Mr Manuel Brown MLA, represent the Committee at the upcoming ACPAC Conference to be held at the Parliament of Tasmania from 19-21 April 2026.

Question put and passed.

It was further agreed that members consider the questions posed by the conference hosts for consideration at the committee’s next meeting.

#### 4. INQUIRY INTO THE INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT PROVISIONAL SUM

Justine Davis moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of the Answers to Questions Taken on Notice from the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure redacting the confidential responses to questions 6 and 7 prior to publication.

Question put and passed.

#### 5. CONSIDERATION OF CHAIR’S DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

Justine Davis moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The Committee adopt the Chair’s draft *Annual Report 2024-25*, for tabling in the Assembly on Tuesday 21 October 2025.

**6. NEXT MEETING**

3.30 pm Friday 24 October 2025

Meeting closed at 12.54 pm.

**Mr Clinton Howe, MLA**  
**Chair**