



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

MEDIA RELEASE

COUNCIL OF TERRITORY CO-OPERATION

6 November 2009

The Council of Territory Co-operation commences its first round of Public Hearings on Monday 9 November with a two day hearing to be held in Darwin.

This is the first hearing undertaken by the Council and will focus on the first three issues identified in its Terms of Reference, that is the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program, Local Government Reform and Working Futures, including the Homelands Policy.

The Chair, Independent MLA Gerry Wood, said that it made sense to group these three matters, given that there are overlapping interests with both.

“The Council is keen to look closely at the policy rationale, programming and implementation in each of these areas,” said Mr Wood, “and will be reporting on its findings to the Legislative Assembly on an ongoing basis. All hearings will be open to the public unless it is agreed there is a very good reason why not, and will include an open forum session when members of the public can air their concerns. A Hansard transcript of each session will be placed on the website when available.”

The hearings kick off at 11.00am Monday 9 October 2009 in the Litchfield Room at Parliament House. The first day will focus on the big picture with senior Government officials giving evidence. On Tuesday the Committee will examine more operational aspects.

Details of next week’s Public Hearing program can be found on the Legislative Assembly’s website at www.nt.gov.au/lant/parliament/committees/ctc/program.pdf

The Council is a bipartisan parliamentary Committee. Other members are Ms Alison Anderson MLA, Mr John Elferink, MLA, Mr Michael Gunner, MLA, Ms Marion Scrymgour, MLA and Mr Willem Westra Van Holthe, MLA.

Hearings are planned for Tennant Creek on 19 November, Alice Springs on 23 November and Katherine on 2 December. The Council intends to visit remote areas early in 2010.

Details of the Council’s inquiry program can be obtained by emailing ctc.la@nt.gov.au or calling the Committee Secretariat on 8946 1464.

ENDS

 *Contact for comment: Gerry Wood - telephone 0428698037*
