



# Selena Uibo MLA

## Member for Arnhem

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*Working for Arnhem*

Chair of Committee  
Mr Jeff Collins MLA

Via email: [lcomm@nt.gov.au](mailto:lcomm@nt.gov.au)

### **Northern Territory Parliamentary Labor Party Submission - Select Committee on Opening Parliament to the People**

As outlined in our Policy Discussion Paper “Opening Parliament to the People”, Labor understands how important an open, transparent and relevant parliament is to building trust and confidence in our system of Government.

Labor supports measures which give Territorians a more direct say in how parliament operates, increases scrutiny of Government and promotes a contest of ideas not a clash of egos.

We do so not only because parliament belongs to the people, but because more transparency and accountability leads to decision making and governance which puts the interests of Territorians first.

### **Support for measures outlined in the Green Paper**

Labor supports the following measures outlined in the Green paper:

New Scrutiny Committees including improvements to community consultation, changes to procedures for passage of bills, super scrutiny Wednesday's and time allocation and membership provisions of the committee;

Moving to a system of a one week schedule for estimates scrutiny of the budget and separate week for scrutiny of Departmental Annuals Reports in October / November; and

Provisions for debating petitions which meet appropriate criteria along the lines of Matters of Public Importance debates

### **Additional Proposal**

Labor proposes that provision be made to allow Ministerial reports to be debated in the morning session of Parliament.



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This will enable important issues that may not warrant a full ministerial statement to be debated in parliament.

Notice of the topic for discussion should be given on a previous sitting day to allow all members of parliament adequate time to prepare contributions.

Time limits for contributions would be 20 minutes for the first two speakers and 15 minutes for each subsequent contribution with no member being able to speak twice. Debate would be capped at two hours.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Selena Uibo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Selena Uibo MLA  
Caucus Chair

28 November 2016