



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Public Accounts Committee

Associated Minutes of Proceedings

Report of Ministerial Correspondence on Subordinate Legislation

July 2019 – March 2020

March 2020



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
13th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 38

12.10 pm, Tuesday, 6 August 2019

Litchfield Room

Present: Mrs Kate Worden MLA, Chair, Member for Sanderson
Mr Gerry Wood MLA, Member for Nelson
Mr Gary Higgins MLA, Member for Daly
Mr Terry Mills MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain
Mr Tony Sievers MLA, Member for Brennan
Mr Lawrence Costa MLA, Member for Arafura (via teleconference)

Secretariat: Mr Russell Keith, First Clerk Assistant and Committee Secretary
Ms Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

The Committee Secretary sought nominations for Chair of the Committee.

Mr Sievers nominated Mrs Worden for Chair of the Committee and Mr Mills seconded the nomination.

As there were no other nominations, the Secretary declared Mrs Worden to be Chair of the Committee.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES MEETING 37

Mr Sievers moved and Mr Higgins seconded:

That the Minutes of Meeting Number 37 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

3. TRANSCRIPT FROM PUBLIC HEARING ON THE MASTER BUILDERS FIDELITY FUND

Mr Wood moved and Mr Sievers seconded:

That the Committee authorises the publication of the transcript from the public hearing on the Master Builders Fidelity Fund on 14 May 2019.

Question put and passed.

4. DARWIN CORRECTIONAL PRECINCT

The Committee noted the correspondence from the Auditor-General regarding Darwin Correctional Precinct.

The Committee agreed to follow up in 2020 on the development of the Contract Management Framework at item 4 in the letter and supporting policy and procedures.

5. FORMER INPEX VILLAGE

Mr Wood raised questions regarding the Government's obligations regarding and management of the former INPEX workers' village, noting that he was to get a briefing on the matter. The Committee agreed that Mr Wood would email Members regarding any outstanding concerns following that briefing for consideration by the Committee.

6. INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Mrs Worden moved and Mr Mills seconded:

That the Committee invite the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics to provide a briefing on Indigenous Development Plans.

7. NEXT MEETING

12 noon, Tuesday, 13 August 2019, unless earlier meeting convened.

Meeting closed at 12.25 pm



Mrs Kate Worden MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
13th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 39

12.05 pm, Tuesday, 13 August 2019

Litchfield Room

Present: Mrs Kate Worden MLA, Chair, Member for Sanderson
Mr Gerry Wood MLA, Member for Nelson
Mr Gary Higgins MLA, Member for Daly
Mr Terry Mills MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain
Mr Tony Sievers MLA, Member for Brennan
Mr Lawrence Costa MLA, Member for Arafura

Secretariat: Mr Russell Keith, First Clerk Assistant and Committee Secretary
Ms Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer

1. PREVIOUS MINUTES MEETING 38

Mr Costa moved and Mr Sievers seconded:

That the Minutes of Meeting Number 38 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. ACPAC CONFERENCE

The Committee resolved to seek the Speaker's approval for Mrs Worden and Mr Mills to attend the ACPAC Conference on 6-8 November 2019 in Canberra on behalf of the Committee.

3. ANNUAL REPORT

Mr Sievers moved and Mr Higgins seconded:

That the Committee adopt the PAC Annual Report 2018-19

Question put and passed.

4. NORTHERN TERRITORY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (NTPDF)

The Chair informed the Committee that she had followed-up with the Chief Minister's Office regarding the Committee's letter on the NTPDF and was advised the Committee would receive a reply soon.

5. TURF CLUB GRANT

The Committee considered the letter from Mr Wood to the Chair regarding the Turf Club grant. The Committee agreed to discuss this matter at its next meeting.

6. FORMER INPEX VILLAGE

Mr Wood provided an update to the Committee on the briefing he received. The Committee agreed to seek a tour of the Village and to keep the Village on the agenda for future follow-up.

7. NEXT MEETING

To be convened at a convenient time in the next couple of weeks.

Meeting closed at 12.25 pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Worden'.

**Mrs Kate Worden MLA
Chair**



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
13th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 40

1 pm, Monday, 26 August 2019

Litchfield Room

Present:	Mrs Kate Worden MLA, Chair, Member for Sanderson Mr Gerry Wood MLA, Member for Nelson Mr Terry Mills MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain Mr Tony Sievers MLA, Member for Brennan Mr Lawrence Costa MLA, Member for Arafura (by telephone)
Apologies	Mr Gary Higgins MLA, Member for Daly
Secretariat:	Mr Russell Keith, First Clerk Assistant and Committee Secretary

1. AUDITOR-GENERAL'S AUGUST REPORT

The Auditor-General, Mrs Julie Crisp, briefed the Committee on her August report.

In discussion on the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education, Mrs Crisp noted that the Committee may wish to consider two recent reviews of the Institute and undertook to forward the reviews to the Committee.

Mrs Crisp withdrew from the meeting.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES MEETING 39

Mr Sievers moved and Mr Wood seconded:

That the Minutes of Meeting Number 39 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr Mills moved and Mr Sievers seconded:

That the correspondence be noted.

Question put and passed.

4. TURF CLUB GRANT

The Committee agreed to write to the Minister to ask the questions raised in Mr Wood's letter regarding the grant to the Turf Club.

5. YOUTH DETENTION FACILITY

The Committee agreed to write to the Minister to ask the questions raised in Mr Wood's letter regarding the grant to the youth detention facility.

6. NEXT MEETING

12 noon, Tuesday, 17 September 2019.

Meeting closed at 2 pm

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kate". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

**Mrs Kate Worden MLA
Chair**



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
13th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 41

12.00 pm, Tuesday, 17 September 2019

Litchfield Room

- Present:** Mrs Kate Worden MLA, Chair, Member for Sanderson
Mr Gerry Wood MLA, Member for Nelson
Mr Terry Mills MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain
Mr Tony Sievers MLA, Member for Brennan
Mr Lawrence Costa MLA, Member for Arafura
Mrs Lia Finocchiaro MLA, Member for Spillett (substitute for Mr Gary Higgins
MLA, Member for Daly)
- Secretariat:** Mr Russell Keith, First Clerk Assistant and Committee Secretary
Ms Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer

1. PUBLIC BRIEFING ON INDIGENOUS PARTICIPATION ON CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

In the absence of Mrs Worden, Mr Mills chaired the hearing.

The following witnesses from the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics appeared before the Committee:

- Andrew Kirkman: Chief Executive Officer
- John Harrison: General Manager, Infrastructure, Investment and Contracts
- Bruce Michael: Acting General Manager, Transport and Civil Services

The witnesses withdrew.

Mrs Worden took the chair.

2. PUBLIC BRIEFING ON DARWIN YOUTH JUSTICE CENTRE

The following witnesses from the Territory Families appeared before the Committee:

- Ken Davies: Chief Executive Officer
- Brent Warren: General Manager, Youth Justice

The witnesses withdrew and the Committee went into a deliberative meeting.

3. CONSIDERATION OF THE HEARING

The Auditor-General discussed the hearing with the Committee. The Auditor-General withdrew.

4. PREVIOUS MINUTES MEETING 40

Mr Mills moved and Mr Sievers seconded:

That the Minutes of Meeting Number 40 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

That the Committee refers Prof Aughterson's advice on the Liquor Regulations (No. 25 of 2019) to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice for comment.

That the Committee write to the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources to thank her for the advice on the Petroleum (Environment) Amendment Regulations (No. 7 of 2019) and accept the offer to be advised of the outcome of the considerations.

Question put and passed.

6. NEXT MEETING

12 noon, Tuesday, 11 February 2020.

Meeting closed at 1.15 pm.



Mrs Kate Worden MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
13th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 42

12.00 noon, Tuesday, 15 October 2019

Litchfield Room

- Present:** Mrs Kate Worden MLA, Chair, Member for Sanderson
Mr Lawrence Costa MLA, Member for Arafura
Mr Gary Higgins MLA, Member for Daly
Mr Terry Mills MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain
Mr Tony Sievers MLA, Member for Brennan
Mr Gerry Wood MLA, Member for Nelson
- Secretariat:** Mr Russell Keith, First Clerk Assistant and Committee Secretary
Ms Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer
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1. PUBLIC BRIEFING ON DARWIN TURF CLUB GRAND

The following witness from the Department of Trade, Business and Innovation appeared before the Committee:

- Shaun Drabsch: Chief Executive Officer

The witnesses withdrew.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES MEETING 41

Mr Sievers moved and Mr Higgins seconded:

That the Minutes of Meeting Number 40 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence was noted.

4. ARAFURA GAMES

The Committee agreed to hold a public briefing to follow up on questions regarding the cost of the Arafura Games.

5. INPEX WORKERS' VILLAGE

The Committee discussed its visit to the former INPEX workers' village on 26 September 2019.

6. NEXT MEETING

12 noon, Tuesday, 26 November 2019.

Meeting closed at 1.20 pm.

Mrs Kate Worden MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
13th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 43

12.00 noon, Tuesday, 26 November 2019

Litchfield Room

- Present:** Mrs Kate Worden MLA, Chair, Member for Sanderson
Mr Lawrence Costa MLA, Member for Arafura
Mr Gary Higgins MLA, Member for Daly
Mr Terry Mills MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain
Mr Tony Sievers MLA, Member for Brennan
Mr Gerry Wood MLA, Member for Nelson
- Secretariat:** Mr Russell Keith, First Clerk Assistant and Committee Secretary
Ms Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer

1. PUBLIC BRIEFING ON THE ARAFURA GAMES COSTS

The following witnesses appeared before the Committee:

- Shaun Drabsch: Chief Executive Officer, Department of Trade, Business and Innovation
- Andrew Hopper: Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Department of Tourism, Sport and Culture (via teleconference)
- Tim Watsford: General Manager, Northern Territory Major Events Company (via teleconference)

[NEED TO INSERT REFERENCE TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE]

The witnesses withdrew.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES MEETING 42

Mr Sievers moved and Mr Mills seconded:

That the Minutes of Meeting Number 42 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

3. PUBLICATION OF TRANSCRIPTS

Mr Costa moved and Mr Wood seconded:

The Committee authorises the publication of the transcripts for the public hearings held on 17 September 2019 (Indigenous participation in construction projects and Darwin youth justice centre) and 15 October 2019 (Darwin Turf Club grant).

Question put and passed.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence was noted.

5. SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

Mr Mills moved and Mr Higgins seconded:

5. CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence was noted.

6. ARAFURA GAMES

Mrs Finocchiaro moved and Mr Sievers seconded:

That the Committee write to the Minister for Arafura Games seeking a written response to the questions raised in the letter from the Leader of the Opposition.

Question put and passed.

7. DARWIN TURF CLUB GRANT

The Committee resolved to invite representatives from the Department of Trade, Business and Innovation to appear at a public briefing on the Darwin Turf Club Grant on 15 October 2019.

8. SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

Mr Wood moved and Mr Mills seconded:

That the Committee refers Prof Aughterson's advice on the Petroleum (Environment) Amendment Regulations (No. 7 of 2019), Transport Legislation Amendment Regulations (No. 11 of 2019), and Police Administration Amendment Regulations (No. 17 of 2019) to the responsible Ministers for comment.

Question put and passed.

9. NEXT MEETING

12 noon, Tuesday, 15 October 2019.

Meeting closed at 1.25 pm.



Mrs Kate Worden MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
13th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 44

12.00 noon, Tuesday, 11 February 2020

Litchfield Room

- Present:** Mrs Kate Worden MLA, Chair, Member for Sanderson
Mr Lawrence Costa MLA, Member for Arafura
Mr Gary Higgins MLA, Member for Daly
Mr Terry Mills MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain
Mr Tony Sievers MLA, Member for Brennan
Mr Gerry Wood MLA, Member for Nelson
- Secretariat:** Mr Russell Keith, First Clerk Assistant and Committee Secretary
Ms Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer
Mrs Melissa Campaniello, Administration / Research Officer

1. BRIEFING FROM AUDITOR-GENERAL ON NOVEMBER 2019 REPORT

The Auditor-General briefed the Committee on her November 2019 report.

The Auditor-General withdrew from the meeting.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES MEETING 43

Mr Wood moved and Mr Sievers seconded:

That the Minutes of Meeting Number 43 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

3. PUBLICATION OF TRANSCRIPTS

Mr Higgins moved and Mr Wood seconded:

The Committee authorises the publication of the transcripts for the public briefing held on 26 November 2019 (Arafura Games Costs).

Question put and passed.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs Worden moved and Mr Wood seconded:

The Committee authorises the publication of the answers to the questions taken on notice during the public briefing on the Arafura Games Costs (letter From NTMEC General Manager regarding Staff and Travel for Arafura games (questions taken on notice from public hearing) dated 19 December 2019, From Minister Moss on Government Sporting Facilities used for the Arafura games dated 6 January 2020, and From Commissioner for Public Employment providing response for Public Service employees seconded to the Arafura games dated 15 January 2020).

Question put and passed.

Other correspondence was noted.

5. SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

Mr Sieves moved and Mr Wood seconded:

That the Committee refers Prof Aughterson's advice on the Wagait Shire Council (Dog Management) By-Laws (No. 27 of 2019) to Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development for comment.

Question put and passed.

6. REPORTS FROM STATUTORY BODIES

Mrs Worden moved and Mr Wood seconded:

That the Committee write to the Minister for Health and seek information on the progress of the review of the *Mental Health and Related Services Act*.

That the Committee write to the Chief Minister to ask what action is being taken in response to concerns the Inspector raised regarding protecting whistle-blowers and resourcing of the ICAC.

Question put and passed.

7. FOLLOW UP ON DARWIN CORRECTIONAL PRECINCT CONTRACT MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK (RESOLVED 6 AUGUST 2019)

Mr Wood moved and Mr Costa seconded:

That the Committee write to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice to seek an update on the two unresolved recommendations.

Question put and passed.

8. NEXT MEETING

12 noon, Tuesday, 18 February 2020.

Meeting closed at 1.00 pm.



Mrs Kate Worden MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
13th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 45

12.00 noon, Tuesday, 18 February 2020

Litchfield Room

- Present:** Mrs Kate Worden MLA, Chair, Member for Sanderson
Mr Gary Higgins MLA, Member for Daly
Mr Terry Mills MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain
Mr Tony Sievers MLA, Member for Brennan
Mr Gerry Wood MLA, Member for Nelson
- Apologies:** Mr Lawrence Costa MLA, Member for Arafura
- Secretariat:** Mr Russell Keith, First Clerk Assistant and Committee Secretary
Ms Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer
Mrs Melissa Campaniello, Administration / Research Officer
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1. PREVIOUS MINUTES MEETING 44

Mr Mills moved and Mr Sievers seconded:

That the Minutes of Meeting Number 44 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

The Committee agreed to write to the Chief Minister asking for a response to its letter from October 2018 regarding the NT Project Development Framework

Other correspondence was noted.

3. FOLLOW-UP ON AUDITOR GENERAL'S NOVEMBER REPORT

The Committee agreed to look further into the Fines Recovery Process and the Power and Water Corporation Onerous Gas Contracts and asked for the secretariat to prepare briefing notes on these issues.

4. NEXT MEETING

12 noon, Tuesday, 24 March 2020.

Meeting closed at 12.40 pm.

Mrs Kate Worden MLA

Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
13th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee
Draft MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 46

12.00 noon, Tuesday, 24 March 2020

Litchfield Room

- Present:** Mrs Kate Worden MLA, Chair, Member for Sanderson
Mr Gary Higgins MLA, Member for Daly
Mr Terry Mills MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain
Mr Tony Sievers MLA, Member for Brennan
Mr Gerry Wood MLA, Member for Nelson
- Apologies:** Mr Lawrence Costa MLA, Member for Arafura
- Secretariat:** Mr Russell Keith, First Clerk Assistant and Committee Secretary
Ms Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer

1. PREVIOUS MINUTES MEETING 45

Mr Sievers moved and Mr Wood seconded:

That the Minutes of Meeting Number 45 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development to thank him for his response and recommending that regulations 33 and 34 of the Wagait Shire Council (Dog Management) By-Laws (No. 27 of 2019) be amended so the defences are applicable regardless of whether the behaviour was observed by another person.

3. REPORT ON MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

Mr Higgins moved and Mr Sievers seconded:

That the Committee adopt the report, with the inclusion of the letter to be sent to the Minister today.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence was noted.

5. NEXT MEETING

TBA

Meeting closed at 12.08 pm.

Mrs Kate Worden MLA
Chair