



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
REPORT

Tuesday 14 June 2016
Wednesday 15 June 2016
Thursday 16 June 2016
Tuesday 21 June 2016
Wednesday 22 June 2016

The Estimates Committee examined the estimates of proposed expenditure contained in the Appropriation Bill 2016-2017. Questions were raised by Members on the following issues:

| PORTFOLIO | ISSUES |
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| Speaker | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participation in education and promotional activities in remote communities.• Landscaping contract• Revoted works• Portrait of a Senior Territorian• Efficiency dividends• Build-up Ball charities• Parliament House land value |
| Treasurer | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unemployment rates• Slowing economy• Decline in NT's population• Wind down of major projects e.g. Inpex• Cost of living – house prices, rent and fuel• Variation of return to surplus dates in successive budgets• Infrastructure budget and revoted projects• Efficiency dividends and net operating balance 2018-19• Home Improvement Scheme• Darwin Port – components of the lease sale• Gas Pipeline• Northern Territory Construction and Development Fund• Expenditure of proceeds from sale of TIO• Payroll Tax paid by businesses in the NT• Stamp duty• Decline in home finance applications• Decline in motor vehicle taxes• Decline in casino tax payments• Utilities Commission |

| PORTFOLIO | ISSUES |
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| Treasurer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decline in royalty dividends • Land taxes |
| Lands and Planning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cureton Report - Review of the Building Industry Regulatory Framework in the NT • Details of consultancies and tender process • Staffing levels, resignations, redundancy, termination • Agency travel – international, interstate and intrastate • CEO credit card • Departmental boards and committees • Breakdown of capital works budget • Community Living Area Reform Project • Land development budget variations • Sea bed mining tender • Settlement of Jabiru township claim • Transitioning of Town Camps • Bagot Community • Kulaluk lease • Humpty Doo sewer pump and drainage works • Infrastructure studies • Kilgariff subdivision • Stella Maris site • Community land grants scheme • Dual occupancy in Zone SD • Management of Crown land • Commercial and residential land development in Humpty Doo • Development of a retirement village in the rural area • Costings to develop Weddell • Development on Aboriginal Land • Development of Bayview Haven • Planning Commission • Business activity in the rural area of Alice Springs |
| Mines and Energy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mineral and petroleum exploration industry and assessment of shale gas potential • Number and location of legacy mines in the Territory • Revenue expected to be collected through mining remediation • Funding calculations for mine rehabilitation funding • Legacy mines • Aboriginal employment • Environmental regulations • Contamination surrounding mine areas • Regulations related to non-conventional well construction • Use of water in mining operations • Cost of advertising promoting fracking industry • Mineral titles administration costs • <i>Native Title</i> and <i>Aboriginal Land Rights Act</i> and delays to mining exploration licences • Extractive mining titles |

| PORTFOLIO | ISSUES |
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| Mines and Energy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shale gas fracking industry • Ranger mine rehabilitation • Future of sand mining in Howard Springs |
| Chief Minister | <p><i>Auditor-General</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial position of Power and Water Corporation • Audit costs for Power and Water Corporation • Agency audit reviews • Travel audit • Review of fuel cards <p><i>Electoral Commissioner</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs of updating the Electoral roll • Issues associated with electoral redistribution • Financial implications of changes to the <i>Electoral Act</i> • Education and awareness campaign re changes to voting system • Voter participation in remote locations of the NT • Anticipated cost of 2016 NT General Election • Electoral rebranding • Policing of campaigning within 100 meter rule <p><i>Ombudsman</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs of investigating breaches of <i>Electoral Act</i> by Foundation 51 • Declaration of political donations and implementation of recommendations from McGuiness report • Recommendations re Integrity Commission in the NT • Conflict of Interest issues in the Public Service • Increase in Correctional Service complaints • Number of complaints re Power and Water and Jacana Energy • Inquiry into Police Commissioner John McRoberts <p><i>Department of the Chief Minister</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous employment • Statehood • COAG Indigenous Reform Agreement • COAG Domestic Violence Strategy • Implications of budget cuts to departmental staffing arrangements • Amendments to <i>Aboriginal Land Rights Act</i> • Executive Director of Township leasing • Funding for major and community events • Costs associated with departmental advertising, marketing and communications • Departmental staffing levels • Departmental travel costs • Redevelopment of website |
| Economic Development and Major Project | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Port of Darwin Lease • Cancellation of International Grammar School project • Aboriginal Cultural Centre • Cross border infrastructure – rail corridor • Richardson Park |

| PORTFOLIO | ISSUES |
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| <p>Economic Development and Major Projects</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National standard sporting facility • Common user ship lift facility • Palmerston Regional Hospital • Facility leases in remote communities • Ord stage 3 • Aboriginal land strategic policy • INPEX social management plan |
| <p>Northern and Central Australia</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Australia Development Office grants |
| <p>Young Territorians</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocation of Youth grants • National Youth Week • Youth Participation Framework • Consultation on changes to the <i>Education Act and Bail Amendment Act</i> • Chief Minister's Round Table for Young Territorians • Youth specific mental health funding and services for youth • Office of Youth Affairs |
| <p>Police, Fire and Emergency Services</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police numbers • Staffing classifications, recruitment and retention levels • Temporary Beat Locations • Single officer policing and officer safety • Community safety committees • Alcohol Mandatory Treatment |
| <p>Tourism</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism and Infrastructure Development grants • International visitor numbers • Festivals and major sporting events • Travel audit report • Promotion of parks and wildlife and world war two heritage sites |
| <p>Economic Development and Major Projects</p> | <p><i>Land Development Corporation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design work for Weddell • Expenditure on Kilgariff subdivision • NBN services to Kilgariff |
| <p>Indigenous Affairs</p> | <p><i>Office of Aboriginal Affairs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing levels in the Office of Aboriginal Affairs • Monitoring and Evaluation Reporting Framework • Remote Information Recording System • Fit for Purpose Planning Policy • First Circles Engagement Program • Community Champions Program |
| <p>Attorney-General and Justice</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal Aid funding • Crime statistics and reporting system • Supreme Court Judge numbers • Completion of Alice Springs courthouse • Court support services • Specialist courts • Adult guardianship orders • Alcohol Mandatory Treatment • Civil and Administrative Tribunal |

| PORTFOLIO | ISSUES |
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| <p>Attorney-General and Justice</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fines Recovery • Integrated Justice Information System • Responsibility for domestic violence directorate • Funding for domestic violence programs • Domestic Violence Directorate staffing and relocation to Department of Community Services <p>Anti-Discrimination Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Visitor Program • Implementation of Anti-Discrimination Commissioner's recommendations <p>Public Interest Disclosures Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflicts of interest • Integrity commission |
| <p>Children and Families</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for child protection services • Increase in child protection notifications • Out of home care • Kinship care • Retention and recruitment of foster carers • Funding for intensive family support services • Breakdown of child protection services staff • Average caseload numbers • Staff turnover • Child protection investigations • Review of client information system • Number of children in residential care • Average number of placements per child • Frequency of client-caseworker face to face meetings • Implementation of Coroner's recommendations • Intensive family support services <p>Children's Commissioner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of complaints to and investigations by Children's Commissioner • Implementation of Children's Commissioner's recommendations • Permanent care orders • Backlog of unallocated cases • Number of cases of abuse in care • Review of riot incident at Don Dale Correctional Centre and implementation of recommendations • Implementation of reforms in the youth justice system • Use of restraints within the youth justice system • Restorative justice and preventative programs for young offenders • Amendments to the <i>Bail Act</i> • Access to education in correctional facilities |
| <p>Health</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for non-government service providers • Number of Aboriginal health practitioners • Grants management system • Elective surgery and emergency department waiting times |

| PORTFOLIO | ISSUES |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National health funding agreements • Take up of e-health • Improving Aboriginal health outcomes • Aboriginal control of remote health clinics • Healthy Under 5 Kids Program • Pensioner and Carer Concession Scheme • Policy on sewerage treatment plants on urban blocks • Government response to Zika virus • Alcohol Mandatory Treatment – funding, occupancy completion rates, number of returns, costs per patient and review of program • Double dipping by Doctors • Information communication technology upgrade • Palmerston Regional Hospital • Access to health services in correctional facilities |
| Disability Services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carpentaria disability services, consultation process • Provision of disability services in remote and regional areas |
| Mental Health Services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to mental health court liaison officers • Massage chairs for Cowdy Ward |
| Primary Industry and Fisheries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and location of scientific researchers • Number of Indigenous employees • Vapour heat treatment system for mangoes • Facilitation agreement with CT Group • Innovative crop growth • Cost of banana freckle program in the NT • Economic impact of cucumber mosaic virus • Development of disease resistant bananas • Watermelon rootstock trials • Hemp growing trials • Ord project • Plans for the Berrimah farm • Live cattle industry • Trial of mid-water trawling for red snappers • Impact and incidence of bottom trawling • Review of Timor reef fishery • Management of commercial and recreational fishing • Fishing in closure zones • Mud crabbing Bynoe Harbour • Market for oysters |
| Land Resource Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertising and communication campaigns • Indigenous Employment • Tenders and consultancies • Departmental travel • Expenditure on hospitality • Boards and advisory bodies • Fees and charges • Online NT Flora resource • Funding of non-government organisations • Proposals to allow commercial hunting of crocodiles |

| PORTFOLIO | ISSUES |
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| <p>Land Resource Management</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of cane toads on flora and fauna • Impact of climate change on bio-diversity • Gamba grass assistance program • Monitoring and impact of rising sea levels • Monitoring and reporting on land condition across pastoral leases • Assessment of land clearing applications • Investigation of land cleared without consent • Impact of increased rainfall on weed growth and management programs • Update on status of water aquifers • Water licenses and water allocation plans • Storm surge and flood plain maps • Firefighting foam agents • Travel audits |
| <p>Environment</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental funding • Major infrastructure developments • Climate change – evidence of coral bleaching and mangrove degradation • Environment Defenders Office • Sand mining • Review of environmental assessment and approval process • Regulation of fracking and onshore gas exploration • <i>Environment Protection Authority</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental assessments • EPA funding • Nature of complaints to the EPA • Redbank mine • Assessment of EIS for Noonamah Ridge • Onsite waste water and sewerage treatment plants • Dumping of rubbish on Crown land • Container deposit legislation |
| <p>Arts and Museums</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darwin festival – review of finances and cost of independent auditor/administrator • Redevelopment of Chan Building • Promotion of heritage sites • Arts grants • Library services to remote communities • Use of wi fi in public libraries • Development of Aboriginal cultural centres • Support of the film sector • Key risks identified by the department • Funding for rural arts centres |
| <p>Local Government and Community Services</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asbestos removal and disposal • Advertising and communication strategies • Consultancies • Breakdown of departmental staffing • Agency travel costs • Hospitality and entertainment costs |

| PORTFOLIO | ISSUES |
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| <p>Local Government and Community Services</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boards and advisory bodies • Fees and charges • Internal audits • Grants to non-government and external organisations • Planning for remote communities • Indigenous essential services • Remote Infrastructure Coordination Program • Revoted projects • Management of morgue facilities • Land tenure in remote communities • Homeland capital grants • Funding of Homeland communities • Funding for municipal services • Review of remote service delivery fees and charges • Funding for NT Jobs Package • Homeland Extra Grants Program • Water supply and quality in remote communities • Review of Town Camps • Security of lease over One Mile Dam • Service delivery standards – homelands and town camps • Review of access and assets on outstations and homelands • Aboriginal Interpreter and Translating Service • Remote Information and Coordination System • Development of bakeries in remote communities • Consultation on conditional rating model • Support for remote councils for cemeteries • Policy on non-incorporated land • Consultancies regarding management of councils • Consultation relating to local government boundaries • Allocation of Special Purpose Grants • Review of Local Authorities <p>Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Indigenous land use and <i>Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act</i> • Public education on provisions of <i>Sacred Sites Act</i> |
| <p>Men's Policy</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous Male Advisory Committee • Lack of male health campaigns |
| <p>Women's Policy</p> <p>Women's Policy</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determination of KPI's relating to grants provided under the Women's Policy Framework • Responsibility for Domestic Violence Directorate • Women's shelters and safe houses • Number of women on government boards and advisory committees • Office of Women's Policy priorities and programs • Formation of women's consultative council • Access to medical services across the NT • Advice provided by the Office of Women's Policy |
| <p>Housing</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Action NT Strategy |

| PORTFOLIO | ISSUES |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor parks • Homelessness and Innovation Fund • Integrated service delivery • Funding for non-government agencies • Housing wait lists • Redevelopment of John Stokes Square • Public housing upgrades • Urban low density in-fill development sites • National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing • Stronger Futures funding allocated for housing • Legal action re departmental failure to deliver remote housing repairs and maintenance • Procurement process |
| Parks and Wildlife | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nitmiluk Gorge sky walk • Park visitor numbers • Territory Wildlife Park animal exhibits • Management plans for national parks • Visitor numbers George Brown Botanical Gardens |
| Business | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployment figures • Buy Local policy • Infrastructure investment • Population growth • Business confidence • Pop-up business centres • Business in the Bush initiative • Funding for Indigenous economic development • Indigenous housing construction program • Decrease in strategic policy budget • Procurement NT • Compliance with Buy Local requirements • Recruitment to and role of the office of the Chief Scientist • Backpacker tax • NT WorkSafe staffing • Industry compliance with WorkSafe legislation • Prosecutions under WorkSafe legislation • Work Health and Safety Advisory Council • Agency travel • Travel audit • Agency staffing • Boards and advisory boards |
| Asian Engagement and Trade | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer of agency from Department of the Chief Minister • Agency and ministerial travel • Measurement of goals in agency's five year plan • Export of goods and services • Strategies to build relationships with India • Export initiatives program • Live cattle trade to Vietnam |

| PORTFOLIO | ISSUES |
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| Asian Engagement and Trade | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade support scheme • International transport links logistics plan • Update on government representative in China • Cost of government representatives in Singapore and Indonesia • Austrade model |
| Employment and Training | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing in the Training NT unit • Training NT grant recipients • Number of Territorians in traineeships and apprenticeships • Indigenous Response Program • NT Training Commission • Industry Skills Advisory Council |
| Racing, Gaming and Licensing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take-Away alcohol licenses • Availability of take-away alcohol from Milikapiti Social Club • Review of alcohol licensing in remote communities • Alcohol Management Action Plans • Number of licensed venues in the Territory • Consultation re liquor license applications • Complaints relating to licensed venues • Compliance checks of licensed venues • Funding for Thoroughbred Racing NT • Capital investment in racing industry • Electronic gaming machines • Funding for gambling amelioration services |
| Public Employment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Indigenous employees by agency • Number of staff resignations per agency • Enterprise Bargaining Agreement negotiations • Strategies to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities |
| Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing levels • Conversion of contract positions to permanent positions • Dual campus model • NT and Commonwealth contribution to Education budget • Certificate of Education and Training Completion rates • NAPLAN data for the NT • School enrolments • Remote School Attendance Strategy • Teachers employed under the Stronger Futures funding agreement • Transition support unit • Behaviour management in schools and impact of new <i>Education Act</i> • Implementation of mental health initiatives and positive learning centres • School counsellors • Repairs and maintenance for schools • Infrastructure investment in schools |

| PORTFOLIO | ISSUES |
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| Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceptional circumstances applications • Agency and ministerial travel • Global school budgets • Direct Instruction • Number of students undertaking VET units at school • Number of students participating in structured work placements • Number of non-school based support staff for students with autism and hearing loss • Assessment process for students with special needs • School to work transition plans for students with disabilities • Transport for students with special needs • Planning for new schools • Teaching services in correctional facilities |
| Transport | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NT and Commonwealth funding • Agency consultancies over \$100,000 • Agency and ministerial travel • Travel approvals • Reduction in transport budget • Expansion of bus and ferry services • Incidence of assaults on bus drivers • Violence at bus interchanges and on particular bus routes • Agency policy re allowing intoxicated persons to get on public buses • Number of transit safety officers • Number of transit safety vehicles on the road at any given time • Implementation of Safety Review recommendations • Commercial Passenger Review • Number of taxis and taxi licences • Airline connection between Katherine and Tennant Creek • Bus service to Holtze Correctional Facility • Policy on rolling out bus shelters in vicinity of schools • Advertising signs on road sides • Open speed limits • Road transport infrastructure planning • Land acquisition Glyde Point road corridor • Temple Terrace/Glyde Point Road Intersection • Vanderlin Drive duplication • McMillans Rd/Kalymnos Drive intersection • Control of peak hour traffic flow at roundabouts |
| Infrastructure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boost to the Territory Economy program roll out • Consultancies • Proportion of Boost to the Territory Economy work awarded to local business • Monitoring of local content performance of Lend Lease Palmerston Regional Hospital contract |

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robyn Lambley", with a period at the end.

**Mrs Robyn Lambley MLA
CHAIR**