



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

## CATEGORIES OF BUSINESS

The Assembly meets on Wednesdays at 10:00, except where a Chair of one or more of the Social Policy Scrutiny Committee, Economic Policy Scrutiny Committee and/or Public Accounts Committee has advised the Speaker by 14:00 on the preceding Tuesday that the Committee/s will meet on the next Wednesday morning to enable them to conduct business

### Lunch suspension

It is the practice of the Assembly to suspend each day between 12 pm and 2 pm. Committees of the Assembly hold meetings during this time.

### Categories of business

There are three main categories of business:

- Business of the Assembly
- Government Business
- General Business.

### Business of the Assembly

Business of the Assembly only includes:

- a motion regarding the qualification of a Member
- a motion to disallow, disapprove or declare void and of no effect any instrument made under the authority of an act
- an order of the day for the presentation of a report from a committee
- a motion or order of the day for the appointment of committees.
- messages from the Administrator.

### Government Business

Government Business is initiated by a Minister.

### General Business

General Business consists of all other business initiated by Members which may include Ministers as private Members.

### Notices and Orders

Within each category there are two types of business: Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day.

### Notices of motion

A Notice of Motion is listed on the Notice Paper, and when called on the relevant Member reads out their motion and starts debate. Notices are placed on the *Notice Paper* in the order they were given to the Assembly. If debate on a Notice has not concluded and is adjourned it will become an Order of the Day for a later time.

### Orders of the Day

An Order of the Day is an item of business the Assembly has set down for consideration on a particular day. The most common Orders of the Day are orders to continue a debate adjourned on a previous day.

### Matters not dealt with

There is typically more business listed on the *Notice Paper* than the Assembly has time to consider. Items not dealt with remain on the Notice Paper for the next day.

### SUMMARY

There are three categories of business in the following priority order:

- *Business of the Assembly*
- *Government Business*
- *General Business*

## CATEGORIES OF BUSINESS

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### **The routine of business**

The Standing Orders set out the rules of the Assembly. Included in these rules is the routine of business, that is the times the Assembly will meet, what business it will consider and in what order.

### **Tuesday and Thursday**

1. 10:00  
Prayers and Acknowledgement of Country  
Ministerial Reports
2. Government Business – Notices and Orders of the Day
3. 14:00  
Notices  
Petitions  
Questions
4. Government Business – Notices and Orders of the Day
5. Ministerial Policy Statements and Forecasts
6. Papers
7. Consideration of Committee Reports, Government Responses and Auditor-General's Reports
8. Debates on Petitions and Responses to Petitions
9. Discussion pursuant to Standing Order 66 (Matter of Public Importance)

### **Wednesday if committees meeting**

1. 14:00  
Prayers and Acknowledgement of Country  
Notices  
Petitions  
Questions
2. General Business – Notices and Orders of the Day
3. 19:00  
Government Business

### **Wednesday if committees not meeting**

1. 10:00  
Prayers and Acknowledgement of Country  
Ministerial Reports
2. Government Business – Notices and Orders of the Day
3. 14:00  
Notices  
Petitions  
Questions
5. General Business – Notices and Orders of the Day
6. 19:00  
Government Business