



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Information Manual

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Tuesday 10 – Thursday 19 June 2025

This document has been produced to provide information to agency and Ministerial officers on the administrative and procedural arrangements for the Estimates Committee for 2025.

Contacts

Ms Julia Knight

Telephone: 8901 4149

Email: LA.Estimates@nt.gov.au

Ms Katie Helme

Telephone: 8999 7733

Email: LA.Estimates@nt.gov.au

Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	4
1.1	Establishment and Authority of the Committee	4
1.2	Matters Considered by the Estimates Committee	4
1.3	Membership	4
1.4	Method of Operation	4
2	ATTENDANCE AT HEARINGS	6
2.1	Venue.....	6
2.2	Order of Appearance by Ministers	6
2.3	Committee Support.....	6
2.4	Lists of Witnesses	7
2.5	Entry of Witnesses and Agency Support Staff to Parliament House.....	7
2.6	Appearing in Person Before the Committee	7
2.7	Documents Provided by Witnesses	7
2.8	Facilities for Witnesses and Agency Support Staff.....	7
2.9	Mobile Phones and Tablet Computers	7
2.10	Catering	8
3	CONDUCT OF THE HEARINGS	9
3.1	Basic Procedures.....	9
3.2	Swearing of Witnesses	9
3.3	Scope of Questions (Admissibility) and the Role of the Chair.....	9
3.4	Recording of Proceedings (Hansard)	9
3.5	Corrections to Hansard	10
3.6	Broadcasting and Media Access	10
3.7	Material Received at Hearings.....	10
3.8	Confidential Documents.....	10
3.9	Written Questions	10
3.10	Questions Taken on Notice	10
3.11	<i>In Camera</i> Hearings.....	11
3.12	Other Matters	11
4	AFTER THE HEARING	12
4.1	Tabling of Report in the Assembly.....	12
APPENDIX A:	Terms of Reference - Estimates Committee 2025.....	13
APPENDIX B:	Standing Order 109 – Manner and Form of Questions	15
APPENDIX C:	Standing Order 193 and Sessional Order 10	16
APPENDIX D:	Standing Order 210 – Witness Procedures	17
APPENDIX E:	Orders and Determination Regarding Broadcasting.....	19
APPENDIX F:	Template for Answers to Questions on Notice	22

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Establishment and Authority of the Committee

- 1.1.1 The Estimates Committee was established by a resolution of the Legislative Assembly on 14 May 2025 (see Appendix A). That resolution provides the primary rules for the operation of the Committee.
- 1.1.2 The Committee is also empowered by, and subject to, applicable Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly. In particular, Standing Order 109 regarding questions, Chapter 16 and Standing Order 210 apply (Appendix B, C & D).
- 1.1.3 The Committee is also governed, and empowered by, the *Legislative Assembly (Powers and Privileges) Act 1992*.

1.2 Matters Considered by the Estimates Committee

- 1.2.1 The role of the Estimates Committee is to examine and report on the:
 1. estimates of proposed expenditure contained in the Appropriation (2025-2026) Bill (the Appropriation Bill) and related budget documents, and
 2. Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 (Serial 26), and
 3. activities, performance, practices and financial management of the Power and Water Corporation, Jacana Energy and Territory Generation, with reference to those corporations' Statements of Corporate Intent 2025-26.

1.3 Membership

- 1.3.1 The Members of the Committee are:

Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Member for Drysdale (Chair)

Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura

Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston

Mr Brian O'Gallagher MLA, Member for Karama

Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Member for Fannie Bay (Deputy Chair)
- 1.3.2 Pursuant to Standing Order 193, any Members of the Assembly may participate in the Committee's public hearings and question witnesses unless the Committee orders otherwise, but may not vote. Such Members do not count towards quorum, which is three Committee Members (SO 184). There will be space for 8 Members at the hearings.
- 1.3.3 In the case of illness or inability to attend by a Member of the Committee, or where a Member decides to stand down from the Committee for a period of time, substitution can occur by following the procedure in Sessional Order 10. A substitute Member counts for quorum and can vote.

1.4 Method of Operation

- 1.4.1 The Committee will hold hearings for a total of up to 60 hours on:
 - Tuesday 10 June 2025
 - Wednesday 11 June 2025
 - Thursday 12 June 2025
 - Monday 16 June 2025
 - Tuesday 17 June 2025

- Wednesday 18 June 2025
 - Thursday 19 June 2025
- 1.4.2 At these hearings, the Committee may ask questions of the responsible Minister and agency about each output in the Budget. The Ministers are to attend the Committee's hearings at the scheduled time and should be accompanied by the agency officers that the Minister considers appropriate to assist in answering questions on the Budget outputs under consideration.
- 1.4.3 Questions relating to proposed expenditure and outputs are directed to the relevant Minister. A Minister may refer a line of questions to an agency officer and may intervene and take back the questions at any time.
- 1.4.4 The Committee has issued a schedule setting out the dates and times of appearance by Ministers and an agenda for the order in which budget outputs will be considered. The documents can be found on the Committee's webpage <https://parliament.nt.gov.au/committees/list/estimates-2025>
- 1.4.5 Hearings relating to Government Owned Corporations operate in a similar manner, except that questions are put to the relevant Board Chair in the first instance, and there is no scheduled order of issues for questioning.

2 ATTENDANCE AT HEARINGS

2.1 Venue

- 2.1.1 Estimates Committee hearings are to be held in the Litchfield Room on Level 3 of Parliament House.

2.2 Order of Appearance by Ministers

- 2.2.1 For the hearings on the estimates of proposed expenditure contained in the Appropriation Bill and on the Government Owned Corporations' Statements of Corporate Intent, the Committee has agreed to the following schedule for hearings:

Tuesday 10 June 2025

9.00 am – 5.30 pm Hon Lia Finocchiaro MLA

Wednesday 11 June 2024

9.00 am – 5.30 pm Hon Bill Yan MLA

Thursday 12 June 2025

9.00 am – 3.30 pm Hon Gerard Maley MLA

4.00 pm – 10.00 pm Hon Jinson Charls MLA

Monday 16 June 2025

9.00 am – 3.00 pm Hon Marie-Claire Boothby MLA

3.30 pm – 9.30 pm Hon Jo Hersey MLA

Tuesday 17 June 2025

9.00 am – 3.00 pm Hon Steve Edgington MLA

3.30 pm – 9.30 pm Hon Robyn Cahill OAM MLA

Wednesday 18 June 2025

9.00 am – 3.00 pm Hon Josh Burgoyne MLA

Thursday 19 June 2025

8.30 am – 10.00 am Power and Water Corporation

10.00 am – 11.00 am Jacana Energy

11.00 am – 12.30 pm Territory Generation

12.30 pm – 1.30 pm Hon Robyn Lambley MLA

- 2.2.2 The Committee has issued a detailed agenda indicating the order each Budget output will be considered. Agencies should be prepared to support the relevant Minister whenever an output under their administration is scheduled for consideration.

2.3 Committee Support

- 2.3.1 The Department of the Legislative Assembly's Committee Office provides administrative and operational support for the Committee.
- 2.3.2 The Committee Office staff are available to assist all Members, and ministerial and agency officers on matters relating to the Estimates Committee process. The Committee Office can be contacted on 8946 1480 or LA.Estimates@nt.gov.au.

2.4 Lists of Witnesses

- 2.4.1 Agency secretariats are required to provide the Committee Office details of witnesses that may appear alongside their Minister in advance of the hearings. The details required are title, name, job position title and agency. Please ensure all details and spelling is correct. Last minute changes to witnesses must be advised to the Committee Secretariat by telephone on 8946 1480 or email to LA.Estimates@nt.gov.au.

2.5 Entry of Witnesses and Agency Support Staff to Parliament House

- 2.5.1 Entry will be through the main entrance to Parliament House, State Square. The direction through to the Litchfield Room on Level 3 will be signposted and assistance will be provided by front of house security staff in directing witnesses to the appropriate lift.

2.6 Appearing in Person Before the Committee

- 2.6.1 Witnesses will be seated at tables opposite the Committee and immediately in front of the gallery to give evidence.
- 2.6.2 Typically, the Minister or Board Chair will be accompanied by the relevant Chief Executive for the outputs under consideration. Other officers who might be required to give evidence may be seated at the table if space allows or may sit in the gallery and be called to the table if required. Up to six witnesses (inclusive of the Minister or Board Chair) can sit at the table at any one time.
- 2.6.3 To assist accurate recording, witnesses should identify themselves before speaking, both when first introduced to the Committee and whenever re-entering the discussion.
- 2.6.4 Each microphone at the table can be turned on or off by pressing the button on its base.

2.7 Documents Provided by Witnesses

- 2.7.1 If agencies intend to provide any documents prior to or at the hearing they must supply at least four copies unless otherwise agreed. Nine copies should be provided if it is intended that the Committee Members will examine the documents during the hearing.

2.8 Facilities for Witnesses and Agency Support Staff

- 2.8.1 The Elsey Room, which is opposite the Litchfield Room where the hearings will be held, will be available to witnesses and agency staff as a waiting and communications room. The room will have television coverage of the hearings and WiFi access to the NT Government network (including Education and NT Police). Those intending to use WiFi will need to ensure their agency has given them appropriate access before attending the hearing. A printer will be available in the Elsey Room and accessible through the NT Government network. Instructions for connecting to the printer will be located in the room.
- 2.8.2 Users of the Elsey Room are reminded to keep noise to a minimum so as not to interfere with the hearings and to allow other users listening to proceedings to hear.

2.9 Mobile Phones and Tablet Computers

- 2.9.1 Mobile phones must be silent, and no conversations should be conducted in or near the Litchfield Room. As noted above, the NT Government wireless network will be accessible in the Litchfield and Elsey Rooms.

2.10 Catering

2.10.1 Water will be available in the Litchfield and Elsey rooms.

2.10.2 The Speaker's Corner Cafe will be open from 7.30 am to 3.00 pm.

2.10.3 Catering can be arranged through the Parliament House caterer - Janes Hospitality Group. For further details, menus and order forms email info@theshreddedchef.com.au or call 0418741313.

2.10.4 Self-catering for functions is not permitted in Parliament House.

3 CONDUCT OF THE HEARINGS

3.1 Basic Procedures

- 3.1.1 For each agency, the Chair will call for questions on any opening statement, agency related Whole of Government questions on Budget and Fiscal Strategies and questions on each Budget output.
- 3.1.2 A Member may substitute for a Member of the Committee in accordance with Sessional Order 10.
- 3.1.3 Members who are not members of the Committee or substituting for a Member may ask questions in accordance with Standing Order 193(2) but not move motions or vote.
- 3.1.4 The quorum of the Committee is three of the Members of the Committee (including substitute Members).
- 3.1.5 Members participating on the Committee will be limited to a maximum of 8 at any given time.
- 3.1.6 Motions relating to the substance of the proposed expenditure are not moved during public hearings. Rather, they may be dealt with at deliberative meetings at which the Committee determines the contents of its report to the Legislative Assembly.
- 3.1.7 Committee Members may move motions on and debate procedural issues, such as deferral of items until later in the day's hearing. If any debate is likely on a procedural motion, the Committee will go into private session.

3.2 Swearing of Witnesses

- 3.2.1 Witnesses are **not** normally sworn prior to questioning.

3.3 Scope of Questions (Admissibility) and the Role of the Chair

- 3.3.1 The Minister or Board Chair answering a question may call upon agency officers to provide relevant information. Officers may answer questions at the request of the Minister or Board Chair, but shall not be required to comment on policy matters.
- 3.3.2 Any questions going to the operations or financial positions of the departments and agencies which seek funds in the estimates are relevant questions for the purpose of Estimates hearings. While the scope of relevance is broad and latitude in questioning is allowed, Standing Order 109 and the need for relevance do apply. In particular, questions must be relevant to the output under consideration at the time, and once passed an output will not normally be revisited.
- 3.3.3 It can be expected that the discussion will range from items of detail to broad policy matters. As a general guide, the Chair will normally leave it to the Minister or Board Chair appearing to raise any objection to the scope or relevance of questioning.
- 3.3.4 If a dispute by a Member as to the admissibility of a question does arise, the Chair will give a ruling.

3.4 Recording of Proceedings (Hansard)

- 3.4.1 The Estimates Committee hearing will be recorded, broadcast and transcribed by Hansard.
- 3.4.2 Transcripts of each day's hearings will be uploaded to the Committee's webpage at <https://parliament.nt.gov.au/committees/list/estimates-2025> when available.
- 3.4.3 Members of the Assembly requiring a Hansard rush should use the same procedures and forms as for Assembly Hansard rushes but submit them to the Executive Director Parliamentary Support.

3.5 Corrections to Hansard

- 3.5.1 Ministers and agency officers who give evidence are required to submit any corrections directly to Hansard within seven days of publication of the hearing transcript by sending material electronically to: LA.Hansard@nt.gov.au. Hard copy material should be addressed to the Editor of Debates, Parliament House, via internal mail or posted to GPO Box 3721, Darwin, NT, 0801.

3.6 Broadcasting and Media Access

- 3.6.1 The hearings will be broadcast within Parliament House and on the Internet unless the Committee orders otherwise. The webcast will be available from <https://parliament.nt.gov.au/about/broadcast/video-broadcast>.
- 3.6.2 Standing Order 228 authorises the broadcast of the hearings, subject to the Speaker's Determination DLA04 of 2023 and any conditions or restrictions agreed by the Committee (see Appendix E).
- 3.6.3 Media will have access to the public gallery. An audio feed will be available from the media outlet panel at the back of the Litchfield Room and video will be available through the Chamber broadcast room off the Main Hall on Level 2.
- 3.6.4 Business attire is required when media attend Assembly Committee meetings.

3.7 Material Received at Hearings

- 3.7.1 Documents may be presented to the Committee during their hearings. Unless the Committee orders otherwise, documents presented to it are deemed to have been made public and will be uploaded to the Committee's webpage.

3.8 Confidential Documents

- 3.8.1 The Committee may resolve to treat a document presented to it as confidential. However, the Committee or the Assembly may, at a later time, order the publication of a document originally presented on a confidential basis.
- 3.8.2 Any requests for confidentiality should be made very clear to the Committee and witnesses are to be made aware of the conditions above.

3.9 Written Questions

- 3.9.1 Written questions relating to matters before Estimates may be asked through the Assembly's normal written questions process under Standing Orders 113-114. There is no alternative written questions process for the Estimates hearings.

3.10 Questions Taken on Notice

- 3.10.1 At the discretion of Ministers or Board Chairs, questions asked at hearings may be taken 'on notice' and subsequently answered in writing.
- 3.10.2 The Chair will ensure that the terms of a question on notice are clarified and will allocate the question a number.
- 3.10.3 After the production of the transcript for the hearing, the Committee Secretariat will upload the questions and, where applicable, answers to the Questions Taken on Notice table on the Estimates Committee's webpage at <https://parliament.nt.gov.au/committees/list/estimates-2025/QON>.
- 3.10.4 There is no prescribed format for answers to questions taken on notice. However, a suggested template is at Appendix F and a word version is also available on the Committee's webpage.

- 3.10.5 The suggested procedure for agencies to use when providing Ministers with draft answers to questions taken on notice is to prepare a ministerial briefing with a letter to the Chair of the Estimates Committee attaching the answers.
- 3.10.6 Unless the Committee orders an earlier date, answers to questions taken on notice during the hearings must be provided to the Committee Secretariat by **Monday 14 July 2025**. Answers cannot be received by the Committee and published after that date.
- 3.10.7 Electronic copies of the answers with separate documents for each answer should be sent to the Committee Secretariat at: LA.Estimates@nt.gov.au. Hard copies are not required.

3.11 In Camera Hearings

- 3.11.1 All hearings of the Committee will be accessible to the public via the webcast (<https://parliament.nt.gov.au/about/broadcast/video-broadcast>) unless the Committee orders otherwise.
- 3.11.2 If an answer to a question includes information of a confidential nature, the witness may ask that the evidence be taken *in camera* and give reasons for that request. The Committee will then decide whether to close that part of the hearing to the public.

3.12 Other Matters

- 3.12.1 Unless otherwise provided in the Assembly's resolution establishing the Committee, the general rules for Assembly committees apply. Please refer to the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory *Committee Manual: Practice and Procedures* for further information.¹

¹ Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory, *Committee Manual: Practice and Procedures*, November 2024, https://parliament.nt.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0009/951453/Committee-Manual-Practice-and-Procedures-November-2024.pdf

4 AFTER THE HEARING

4.1 Tabling of Report in the Assembly

- 4.1.1 The Committee's report on the Appropriation Bill 2025 and consideration of Government Owned Corporations' Statements of Corporate Intent is to contain any resolutions or expressions of opinion of the Committee and be presented to the Assembly when it meets on Thursday 19 June 2025. The Assembly will then debate the question "that the expenditure proposed in the Appropriation (2025-2026) Bill 2025 stand as printed, and the report of the Estimates Committee be noted."
- 4.1.2 The maximum time for this debate is 5 hours, with Ministers, Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Ministers limited to 20 minutes each and other Members limited to 10 minutes each.

APPENDIX A: TERMS OF REFERENCE - ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2025

Resolution of 14 May 2025

That the Assembly resolves that:

1. There be appointed an Estimates Committee of the Legislative Assembly (the Committee) for the purposes of examining and reporting on the:
 1. estimates of proposed expenditure contained in the Appropriation (2025-2026) Bill (the Appropriation Bill) and related budget documents, and
 2. Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 (Serial 26), and
 3. activities, performance, practices and financial management of the Power and Water Corporation, Jacana Energy and Territory Generation, with reference to those corporations' Statements of Corporate Intent 2024-25.
2. The membership of the Committee will be three Government Members, one Opposition Member and one cross-bench Member to be nominated in writing to the Speaker by the relevant Whip or cross-bench Member. Nominations to the Speaker should occur no later than Monday 19 May 2025.
3. The Committee may hold hearings on the following days:
 - Tuesday, 10 June 2025
 - Wednesday, 11 June 2025
 - Thursday, 12 June 2025
 - Monday, 16 June 2025
 - Tuesday, 17 June 2025
 - Wednesday, 18 June 2025
 - Thursday, 19 June 2025
4. The total time for hearings of the Committee may not exceed 60 hours.
5. The maximum time of the appearance of the Chief Minister and the Treasurer shall not exceed 8 hours. For each other Minister and the Speaker the maximum time of their appearance shall not exceed 7 hours.
6. The Committee will publish a schedule of the days and times of hearings, and the times allotted for hearing from Ministers, the Speaker and Board Chairs by Friday 23 May 2025. The Committee may only amend the published schedule with the consent of the Leader of Government Business.
7. The Committee shall examine the proposed expenditure contained in the Appropriation Bill by portfolios in accordance with an agenda published by the Committee and the proposed expenditure shall be considered on an output by output basis for each portfolio unit.
8. All questions should conform to Standing Order 109 and answers will be concise and directly relevant to the question asked.
9. Answers to questions taken on notice during the hearings, or additional information about an answer given by or on behalf of a Minister, the Speaker or Board Chair, are to be written and given to the Estimates Committee Secretariat by 14 July 2025. Answers or additional information so received are authorised for publication.

10. The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly is authorised to publish a transcript of the Committee proceedings, whether or not it has been edited, as soon as practicable.
11. Evidence taken in public by the Committee and documents presented to the Committee are deemed to be authorised for publication by the Committee, unless the Committee orders otherwise.
12. At a hearing of the Committee, the Chair may, after a warning, order any Member of the Assembly whose conduct, in the opinion of the Chair, continues to be disorderly or disruptive to immediately withdraw from the Committee for a period of 1 hour.
13. Following its second reading, the Bill stands referred to the Committee for report by 19 June 2025 after which consideration in detail will take place followed by the third reading.
14. The Assembly's Routine of Business for Thursday, 19 June 2025 is:
 1. 2.30pm
Prayers and Acknowledgement of Country
 2. Report from Estimates Committee and consideration of Appropriation Bill 2025
15. When the Committee's report on the Appropriation Bill is presented, the Assembly shall immediately consider the question:

that the expenditure proposed in the Appropriation (2025-2026) Bill stand as printed, and the report of the Estimates Committee be noted.
16. The following time limits shall apply to the debate on this question:
 - Ministers, Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Ministers: 20 minutes
 - Any other Member: 10 minutes
 - The maximum period for consideration shall be 5 hours.
17. When the question on the expenditure proposed in the Appropriation Bill is agreed to, the following question is proposed and put immediately:

that the remainder of the Bill and the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill stands as printed.
18. When the Bill has been agreed to by the Assembly, its third reading may be taken into consideration immediately.
19. This resolution shall have effect notwithstanding anything contained in Standing and Sessional Orders.

APPENDIX B: STANDING ORDER 109 – MANNER AND FORM OF QUESTIONS

109. MANNER AND FORM OF QUESTIONS

The following rules apply to questions:

- (1) Questions cannot be debated.
- (2) Questions should not contain:
 - (a) statements of facts or names of persons unless they are strictly necessary to render the question intelligible and can be authenticated;
 - (b) arguments
 - (c) inferences
 - (d) imputations
 - (e) insults, or
 - (f) hypothetical matter.
- (3) Questions should not ask Ministers:
 - (a) for an expression of opinion
 - (b) to announce new policy of the government, but may seek an explanation regarding the policy of the government and its application, or
 - (c) for a legal opinion.
- (4) Questions should not refer to proceedings in committee not reported to the Assembly.
- (5) Questions may not be asked which reflect on or are critical of the character or conduct of those persons whose conduct may be challenged only on a substantive motion and questions critical of the character or conduct of other persons must be asked in writing.

APPENDIX C: STANDING ORDER 193 AND SESSIONAL ORDER 10

STANDING ORDER 193

Admission to Hearings

- (1) When a committee is examining witnesses, visitors may be admitted but must withdraw if requested by the Member chairing the committee or any Member of the committee and must withdraw when the committee is deliberating.
- (2) A Member of the Assembly, although not a member of a committee, may participate in the committee's public sessions and question witnesses, unless the committee orders otherwise, but may not vote and must withdraw when the committee is deliberating or taking evidence in camera.

SESSIONAL ORDER 10

Substitution of Committee Members

- (1) In the case of illness or inability to attend by a Member of a committee, or where a Member decides to stand down from a committee for a period of time or for a particular inquiry,
 - (a) where the Member is a Government or Opposition Member, the relevant Whip may nominate in writing to the Speaker another Member to attend that committee for a period of time or particular inquiry, or
 - (b) where the Member is not a party-aligned Member, that Member may nominate in writing to the Speaker another Member to attend that committee for a period of time or particular inquiry, with the letter of nomination being signed by both Members.
- (2) Where a Member is appointed in accordance with (1), that Member has all the rights of the Member replaced.
- (3) Where the Member substituted in accordance with (1) is the Chair or Deputy Chair, the committee will elect a Member to be the Chair or Deputy Chair for the duration of the substitution.

APPENDIX D: STANDING ORDER 210 – WITNESS PROCEDURES

Unless otherwise ordered the following procedures will be followed by Committees of the Assembly when dealing with witnesses and prospective witnesses:

- (1) a witness will be invited to attend a Committee meeting to give evidence: A witness will be summoned to appear (whether or not the witness was previously invited to appear) only where the Committee has made a decision that the circumstances warrant the issue of a summons.
- (2) where the Committee desires that a witness produce documents relevant to the Committee's inquiry, the witness will be invited to do so, and an order that documents be produced will be made (whether or not an invitation to produce documents has previously been made) only where the Committee has made a decision that the circumstances warrant such an order.
- (3) a witness will be given reasonable notice of a meeting at which the witness is to appear, and supplied with a copy of the Committee's terms of reference, a statement of the matters expected to be dealt with during the witness's appearance, and a copy of these procedures: where appropriate, a witness may be supplied with a transcript of relevant evidence already taken.
- (4) a witness will be given an opportunity to make a submission in writing before appearing to give oral evidence.
- (5) reasonable opportunity must be available for a witness to raise any matters of concern to the witness relating to the witness's submission or the evidence the witness is to give before the witness appears at a meeting.
- (6) a witness will have reasonable access to any documents that the witness has produced to the Committee.
- (7) a witness will be offered, before giving evidence, the opportunity to make application, before or during the hearing of the witness's evidence, for any or all of the witness's evidence to be heard in private session, and will be invited to give reasons for any such application. If the application is not granted, the witness will be notified of reasons for that decision.
- (8) the Committee may table in the Assembly or publish evidence given in private session after consideration of the circumstances and deliberating that the circumstances are so extraordinary as to warrant such disclosure. Before giving any evidence in private session, a witness will be informed that it is within the power of the Committee to authorise publication of such evidence and that the Assembly also has the power to order the production and publication of such evidence.
- (9) a Member, in a protest or dissent added to a report, may not disclose evidence taken in camera unless so authorised by the Committee.
- (10) should the Committee consider it essential that evidence given or information received in private session is published or that it is essential that such evidence or information be included in the Committee's report the Chairman or Secretary of the Committee must make every effort to discuss the matter with the relevant witness in an effort to minimise any potential damage to the witness which may flow from that publication or usage.
- (11) the Chairman will take care to ensure that all questions put to witnesses are relevant to the Committee's inquiry and that the information sought by those questions is necessary for the purpose of that inquiry. Where a Member of the Committee requests discussion of a ruling of the Chairman on this matter, the Committee will deliberate in private session and determine whether any question which is the subject of the ruling is to be permitted.

- (12) where a witness objects to answering any question put to the witness on any ground, including the ground that the question is not relevant or that the answer may incriminate the witness, the witness will be invited to state the ground upon which objection to answering the question is taken. Unless the Committee determines immediately that the question should not be pressed, the Committee will then consider in private session whether it will insist upon an answer to the question, having regard to the relevance of the question to the Committee's inquiry and the importance to the inquiry of the information sought by the question: If the Committee determines that it requires an answer to the question, the witness will be informed of that determination and the reasons for the determination, and will be required to answer the question only in private session, unless the Committee determines that it is essential to the Committee's inquiry that the question be answered in public session; and where a witness declines to answer a question to which the Committee has required an answer, the Committee will report the facts to the Assembly.
- (13) where a Committee has reason to believe that evidence about to be given may reflect adversely on a person, the Committee will give consideration to hearing that evidence in private session.
- (14) where a witness gives evidence reflecting adversely on a person and the Committee is not satisfied that that evidence is relevant to the Committee's inquiry, the Committee will give consideration to expunging that evidence from the transcript of evidence, and to forbidding the publication of that evidence.
- (15) where evidence is given which reflects adversely on a person and action of the kind referred to in paragraph (14) is not taken in respect of the evidence, the Committee will provide reasonable opportunity for that person to have access to that evidence and to respond to that evidence by written submission and appearance before the Committee.
- (16) a witness may make application to be accompanied by counsel and to consult counsel in the course of a meeting at which the witness appears. In considering such an application, the Committee will have regard to the need for the witness to be accompanied by counsel to ensure the proper protection of the witness. If an application is not granted, the witness will be notified of reasons for that decision.
- (17) a witness accompanied by counsel will be given reasonable opportunity to consult counsel during a meeting at which the witness appears.
- (18) an officer of a department of the Territory or of the Commonwealth may not be asked to give opinions on matters of policy and be given reasonable opportunity to refer questions asked of the officer to superior officers or to a Minister.
- (19) reasonable opportunity will be afforded to witnesses to make corrections of errors of transcription in the transcript of their evidence and to put before the Committee additional material supplementary to their evidence and
- (20) where the Committee has any reason to believe that any person has been improperly influenced in respect of evidence which may be given before the Committee, or has been subjected to or threatened with any penalty or injury in respect of any evidence given, the Committee will take all reasonable steps to ascertain the facts of the matter: Where the Committee considers that the facts disclose that a person may have been improperly influenced or subjected to or threatened with penalty or injury in respect of evidence which may be or has been given before the Committee, the Committee will report the facts and its conclusions to the Assembly.

APPENDIX E: ORDERS AND DETERMINATION REGARDING BROADCASTING

Standing Order 228 – Broadcasting of Assembly and Committee Proceedings

Unless otherwise ordered the Assembly authorises the broadcast, rebroadcast and televising of all or portions of the debates or proceedings of the Assembly or a committee for the purposes of section 23 of the *Legislative Assembly (Powers and Privileges) Act* in accordance with the following provisions:

- (1) Recordings and broadcasts of the Assembly may be made only from the Legislative Assembly system, unless otherwise approved by the Speaker or his or her delegate and in accordance with guidelines determined by the Speaker from time to time.
- (2) Recording and broadcast of sound and vision of committee proceedings are subject to any conditions or restrictions agreed to by that committee.
- (3) Broadcasts of excerpts will be used only for the purposes of fair and accurate reports of proceedings, and will not be used for:
 - (a) political party advertising or election campaigns
 - (b) satire or ridicule or
 - (c) commercial sponsorship or commercial advertising.
- (4) Reports of proceedings will be such as to provide a balanced presentation of differing views.
- (5) Excerpts of proceedings which are subsequently withdrawn may be broadcast only if the withdrawal is also reported.
- (6) Excerpts must be placed in context. Commentators should identify Members by name.
- (7) Events or activity in the galleries are not part of the proceedings and excerpts in relation to such events may not be used.
- (8) Where the audio excerpts of the proceeding are used on television, their use may be that of audio over still frames or overlay material.
- (9) The Speaker is empowered from time to time to make and publish rules and guidelines in a *Speaker's Determination* which may limit, and /or provide guidance about the reporting of proceedings and the conduct and behaviour of media representatives. Such rules and guidelines will be tabled in the Assembly and made available on the Assembly website.

Speaker's Determination No DLA04 of 2023: MEDIA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

SPEAKER'S DETERMINATION DLA04 OF 2023

MEDIA

I, MARK JAMES MONAGHAN, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory, pursuant to Standing Order 228 and section 14(3) of the *Legislative Assembly (Powers and Privileges) Act 1992* determine that media personnel reporting proceedings of the Assembly and its Committees must be accredited according to the conditions below.

1. ACCREDITATION

- 1.1 Media personnel may only film, photograph or record audio when the Assembly or its Committees are meeting if accredited by the Speaker.
- 1.2 Accreditation requires the Speaker's written approval, on receipt of a written request from media personnel.
- 1.3 Accreditation is for the period granted on the form at Schedule A.
- 1.4 Media personnel must adhere to accreditation rules and conditions as well as the requirements of Standing Order 228 (enclosed) and sign the form at Schedule A.

2. CONDITIONS OF AN OUTLET'S AUTHORISED RECORDING AND BROADCAST OF THE ASSEMBLY'S PROCEEDINGS

- 2.1 Directions of the Speaker or Member presiding must be complied with at all times.
- 2.2 If the Speaker has approved still or video recording by a media representative separate to the Assembly recording, the person making the recording must ensure:
 - Broadcasting of a Member will be no closer than a head-and-shoulders shot
 - No recording may be focused on anything on a Member's desk.

3. CONDUCT OF ACCREDITED MEDIA PERSONNEL

- 3.1 Media personnel may use electronic devices for text and email but their devices must be switched to silent at all times in the media gallery. Media personnel may not use their devices in the public galleries.
- 3.2 Media personnel may not use electronic devices to record sound and/or vision of parliamentary proceedings without the express approval of the Speaker.
- 3.3 Media personnel will be silent while in the gallery and avoid any conduct that would draw attention to the gallery, including draping items over the rail, standing in the doorway, conversing and eating or drinking.
- 3.4 Media personnel are not permitted on the floor of the Chamber except when approved by the Speaker and, if approved, must wear business attire (including ties for men).
- 3.5 Business attire is required when media personnel attend Assembly Committee meetings.

4. MEDIA ACCESS

- 4.1 Media may film Committee hearings subject to the requirements of Standing Order 228(2).
- 4.2 By invitation, media may film or undertake interviews with Ministers or Members of the Legislative Assembly in the following areas:
- The forecourt of Parliament House
 - The Elsey Room, Dining Room or Nitmiluk Lounge upon the issuing of a media alert by a Minister or Member (after the room has been reserved as required)
 - A Member or Minister's office
 - A Ministerial meeting room on level five
 - Ministerial balconies on level five
 - The Northern Territory Library (at the invitation of the Library)
 - External grassed areas in the Parliamentary Precinct (excluding Speaker's Green).
- 4.3 Media activity in the following areas requires prior approval of the Speaker:
- The Main Hall and foyer
 - Corridors leading to and from the Elsey room on level three
 - The Litchfield and Ormiston Rooms (for committee hearings see 4.1)
 - The mezzanine on level three including the public area at the top of the stairs and overlooking the Main Hall
 - The Speaker's Green
 - The Speaker's Corner Cafe
 - The Dining Room, Nitmiluk Lounge and Members and Guest Lounge
 - Immediately outside the main entrance of Parliament House, including the stairs leading to the main doors.
- 4.4 No media activity is permitted in the following areas:
- The Government, Opposition or other Member Lobbies on level two
 - Any corridor on levels two and four
 - The steps leading to the mezzanine floor (level three)
 - The main corridor on level five adjacent to Member and Ministerial suites
 - The entrance or doorway of a Member's office or suite
 - Lifts
 - Driveway entrance to the level one car park

5. PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

Failure to comply with the conditions set out in this Determination may result in immediate removal from the galleries and accreditation being withdrawn by the Speaker or the imposition of other penalties which may include exclusion from the precinct and referral to the Committee of Privileges.

All media activity in Parliament House must also comply with Speaker's Determination DLA08 of 2023 - Parliament House Security.

Dated this

14th

day of

DECEMBER

2022



HONOURABLE MARK JAMES MONAGHAN MLA

Speaker

APPENDIX F: TEMPLATE FOR ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
Question Taken on Notice

Date:

Subject:

From:

To:

Agency:

Number:

Question:

Answer: