



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Public Accounts Committee

Associated Minutes of Proceedings

**Inquiry into the Darwin Ship Lift
Project**

October 2025





LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 9

12.00 pm, Wednesday 14 May 2025
Litchfield room

- Present:** Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay
Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston
Mr Brian O’Gallagher, Member for Karama
- Secretariat:** Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director Parliamentary Support
Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary
Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer
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1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Justine Davis moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 8 of 26 March 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

The Committee Secretary noted Gabrielle Brown has advised that she has no issues with the Committee referring to and quoting from the transcript of the private briefing on Costs Associated with the 2023 Flood Evacuation to the Howard Springs Accommodation Village for the purposes of report drafting.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted.

4. INQUIRY REFERRAL – ACACIA DIGITAL PATIENT RECORD SYSTEM

Mr Howe moved and Mr O’Gallagher seconded that:

1. The Committee authorise publication of submissions received, with the exception of submission nos. 2 and 5, redacting personal information in all submissions such as signatures, personal addresses and phone numbers prior to publication.
2. Pursuant to Standing Order 194(3)(b) the Committee authorise copies of submissions to be forwarded to the Member for Blain, Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, and that he be invited to participate in public hearings on this matter given his technical expertise.

Questions put and passed.

It was further agreed that Members determine preferred date in early July for public hearings on the Acacia Digital Patient Record System for consideration at the next meeting.

5. ACTION ON STRATEGIC REVIEW OF NT AUDITOR-GENERAL’S OFFICE

Justine Davis moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

The Committee request the committee secretariat to:

- a) undertake a comparison of audit mandates across Australasian jurisdictions; and
- b) seek a briefing from the Australasian Council of Auditors General regarding the Independence of Auditors General.

Question put and passed.

6. INQUIRY REFERRAL – DARWIN SHIP LIFT PROJECT

Mr Howe moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

1. The Committee write to the Speaker advising her of receipt of the inquiry referral from the Treasurer, Mr Bill Yan MLA, regarding the Darwin Ship Lift Project and requesting that she advise the Legislative Assembly of the inquiry referral when the Assembly next meets.
2. Committee members provide the secretariat with the names of any other organisations or individuals they consider should be invited to make a submission for consideration at the Committee's next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 21 May 2025.

Questions put and passed.

It was further agreed that Members determine preferred date in early July for a site visit to the Darwin Port for consideration at the next meeting.

7. PETITIONS

Petition No. 9

Mr Howe moved and Mr O'Gallagher seconded that:

The Committee not recommend Petition No. 9 for debate in the Assembly.

3 for, 2 against.

Question put and passed.

Petition No. 10

It was agreed that the Chair would write to the responsible Minister and request information on the Berrimah Road duplication project for consideration at the Committee's next meeting.

8. NEXT MEETING

12.00 pm, Wednesday 21 May 2025.

Meeting closed at 12.32 pm.



Mr Clinton Howe, MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 10

12.09 pm, Wednesday 21 May 2025
Litchfield room

- Present:** Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay
Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston
Mr Brian O’Gallagher, Member for Karama
- Secretariat:** Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director Parliamentary Support
Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer
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1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr Howe moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 9 of 14 May 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted.

3. BRIEFING NOTE: AUDITOR-GENERAL’S OFFICE

Mr Howe moved and Mr O’Gallagher seconded that:

Noting the Government’s priorities in relation to the economy, law and order, the Committee provide the following feedback to the Auditor-General:

Infrastructure Topic

- given the Committee’s current referral from the Treasurer, remove the Darwin Ship Lift from the list of suggested follow-up audits.
- remove examination of how effectively government agencies are managing climate risk, and replace with a focus on the strategic value of proposed infrastructure, improving value for money and procurement practices.

First Nations Territorians Topic

- rather than focussing on Department of Corrections programs relating to First Nations Territorians, consider broadening the focus to examine expenditure and value for money regarding law and order programs and initiatives more generally.

Health Topic

- no comment

Informed Territorians Topic

- noting the introduction of the Public Information Amendment Bill, consider deferring this topic and revisit it 12 months after the amended legislation has been in place.

Justine Davis registered her dissent regarding removal of the focus on climate risk.

Question put and passed.

4. INQUIRY TIMEFRAMES

Mr Howe moved and Mrs Laurie seconded that:

1. The Committee agree to the proposed inquiry timeframes.
2. The Committee prioritise its work plan:
 - a) to meet reporting timeframes for the Darwin Ship Lift Project and Indigenous Employment Provision Sum (IEPS) inquiry referrals;
 - b) reconsider the timeframe for completion of the Acacia Digital Patient Record System at its meeting scheduled for Wednesday 22 October 2025; and
 - c) publish on its website a statement advising that public hearings on the Acacia Digital Patient Record System will be held during November 2025.

Questions put and passed.

5. INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT PROVISIONAL SUM INQUIRY REFERRAL

Mr Howe moved and Mr O’Gallagher seconded that:

1. The Committee send a detailed information request to the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure on the matters raised by the Auditor-General in their November 2018 report.
2. The secretariat seek advice from the ICAC and NT Police regarding appropriate referral pathways for allegations of fraud and deceptive behaviour regarding the IEPS.
3. The Committee publish on its website a statement advising the community that it will not be handling individual allegations of fraud and deceptive behaviour and provide advice on appropriate pathways for such allegations.
4. The Committee write to the Leader of Government Business requesting that the inquiry terms of reference be amended to delete clause (c) (noting that this sits within the purview of the NT Police, the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure Investigation Unit, and the Director of Public Prosecutions), and replacing it with a new clause (c) implementation of the Auditor-general’s recommendations by the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics and outcomes to date.

Questions put and passed.

6. PETITIONS

Mr Howe moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

The Chair advise the Clerk that the Committee recommends that the Assembly debate Petition No. 10.

Question put and passed.

Mr Howe moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The Chair advise the Clerk that the Committee recommends that the Assembly debate Petition No. 11.

Question put and passed.

7. NEXT MEETING

9.00 am, Tuesday 8 July 2025.

Meeting closed at 12.50 pm.



Mr Clinton Howe, MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 13

9.00 am, Tuesday 8 July 2025
11 Export Drive and Litchfield Room

- Present:** Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay
Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston
Mr Brian O’Gallagher, Member for Karama
- Secretariat:** Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director Parliamentary Support
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1. 9.00 AM – 11.00 AM: SITE VISIT – DARWIN SHIP LIFT PROJECT

Mr Shane Dahlhelm: Executive Director, Infrastructure NT, Darwin Harbour Infrastructure Projects, Department of Logistics and Infrastructure provided members with a guided tour of the Darwin Ship Lift Project and associated Marine Maintenance Infrastructure site.

Committee re-convened at 12.00 pm in the Litchfield Room

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Mr Brown moved and Mr O’Gallagher seconded that:

The minutes of meetings No. 12 of 3 June 2025 as amended be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted

4. INQUIRY INTO THE DARWIN SHIP LIFT PROJECT

Justine Davis moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

- a) The Committee authorise publication of submission Nos. 1-3 and 5-6, redacting personal information in all submissions such as signatures, email addresses and phone numbers prior to publication.
- b) The Committee invite representatives from the Department of Trade, Business and Asian Relations, Paspaley Pearls Group, Department of Defence, Department of Logistics and Infrastructure and the Department of Treasury and Finance to appear before the Committee at a public hearing on Wednesday 23 July 2025.
- c) The Committee invite representatives from Clough BMD Joint Venture to appear before the Committee at a private hearing on Wednesday 23 July 2025.

Questions put and passed

5. INQUIRY INTO THE INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT PROVISIONAL SUM

Justine Davis moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of submission No. 1, redacting personal information such as signatures, email addresses and phone numbers prior to publication.

Question put and passed.

The Committee deferred consideration of the written questions for the Department of Logistics to its next meeting. The Chair requested that any additional questions be forwarded to the secretariat.

6. BRIEFING FROM THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

The Auditor-General briefed the Committee on the 2018 and 2024 audits of the Ship Lift Project and his proposed Annual Plan of Audit Work 2025-2026.

The Auditor-General withdrew from the meeting.

7. CHAIR'S DRAFT REPORT – INQUIRY INTO THE DARWIN WATERFRONT CORPORATION

Mrs Zio moved and Mr O’Gallagher seconded that:

Recommendation 1 be removed from the report.

The Committee divided:

For	Against
Mrs Zio	Justine Davis
Mr O’Gallagher	Mr Brown
Mr Howe	

Question put and passed.

Mr Howe moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The Committee adopt the Chair’s draft report: *Inquiry into the Darwin Waterfront Corporation* as amended, for tabling in the Assembly on Thursday 31 July 2025.

Question put and passed.

The Chair requested that copies of dissenting reports be forwarded to the Committee Secretary.

8. CHAIR'S DRAFT REPORT – INQUIRY INTO THE HOWARD SPRINGS ACCOMMODATION VILLAGE – FLOOD EVACUATION COSTS

Mr Howe moved and Mr O’Gallagher seconded that:

The Committee adopt the Chair’s draft report: *Inquiry into the Howard Springs Accommodation Village – Flood Evacuation Costs*, to be tabled out of session with the Speaker on Tuesday 15 July 2025 pursuant to S)200(4), for subsequent tabling in the Assembly on Tuesday 29 July 2025.

Question put and passed.

9. PETITIONS

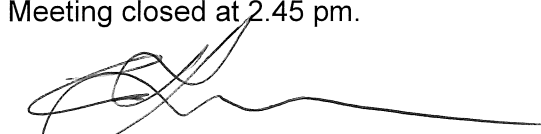
The Committee considered Petition Nos. 12, 13 and 14 and resolved as follows:

- Petition No. 12 – recommend to the Clerk that the petition be debated.
- Petition No. 13 – write to the Minister for Education and Training to ascertain enrolment numbers, current capacity of the school and any planned upgrades – for consideration at the Committee’s next meeting.
- Petition No. 14 – write to the Minister for Logistics and Infrastructure for further information on the matters raised in the petition – for consideration at the Committee’s next meeting.

10. NEXT MEETING

Public Hearings: Darwin Ship Lift Project and Deliberative Meeting: 9.00 am – 4.00 pm, Wednesday 23 July 2025.

Meeting closed at 2.45 pm.



Mr Clinton Howe, MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 14

9.00 am, Thursday 24 July 2025
Litchfield Room

Present: Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay
Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston
Mr Brian O’Gallagher, Member for Karama

Secretariat: Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

1. PUBLIC HEARING – INQUIRY INTO DARWIN SHIP LIFT

The Committee heard from the following witnesses:

Department of Trade, Business and Asian Relations

Hayley Richards: Chief Executive Officer

Joseph Kuhn: Senior Director, Supply Chains and Industry

Questions Taken on Notice

1. What is the department’s role in ensuring that agencies use and comply with the Project Development Framework?

The witnesses withdrew.

Department of Treasury and Finance

Tim McManus: Under Treasurer

Mick Butler: Deputy Under Treasurer

Jason Robertson: Executive Director (Economics)

Questions Taken on Notice

1. What will the cost be to the Northern Territory of the total borrowings for this project?

The witnesses withdrew.

Department of Logistics and Infrastructure

Louise McCormick: Chief Executive Officer

Joanna Pethick: Acting Executive Director Infrastructure NT

Questions Taken on Notice

1. Does the maintenance liability cover fixtures and fittings, whitegoods etc?
2. From what date did the governance and project control sit under your agency?
3. Could you report back on implementation of the recommendations from the Auditor-General?
4. Could the department please provide a figure of money that has already been expended or committed to date?
5. What proportion of the land was land and what proportion of it was water for the land swap?
6. Can you provide further details of the cost sharing for the collaborative construction contract?

The witnesses withdrew.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Mr O’Gallagher moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

The minutes of meeting No. 13 of 8 July 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted

4. PETITIONS

The Committee considered responses from Ministers regarding Petition Nos 13 and 14 and resolved to advise the Clerk that it recommended that Petition No. 14 be debated.

5. INQUIRY INTO THE DARWIN SHIP LIFT PROJECT

Mr Howe moved and Mr O’Gallagher seconded that:

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, write to the Treasurer to seek an extension to the reporting date for the Inquiry into the Darwin Ship Lift Project from tabling in the September 2025 sittings to tabling on or before 31 October 2025.

Question put and passed.

6. INQUIRY INTO THE INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT PROVISIONAL SUM

Mr Howe moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

The Committee forward the written questions to the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure for response by Friday 15 August 2025.

Question put and passed.

7. REVIEW OF ESTIMATES PROCESS

It was agreed that the Secretariat would prepare a briefing note on Estimates processes in other jurisdictions for consideration at a future meeting of the Committee.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Howe moved and Mr O’Gallagher seconded that:

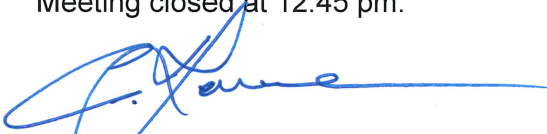
The Correspondence from James Paspaley be forwarded to the Minister for Logistics and Infrastructure for his information.

Question put and passed.

9. NEXT MEETING

Deliberative meeting 2.00 pm, Wednesday 13 August 2025

Meeting closed at 12.45 pm.



Mr Clinton Howe, MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 15

2.00 pm, Wednesday 13 August 2025
Litchfield Room

Present: Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay
Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston
Mr Brian O’Gallagher, Member for Karama

Secretariat: Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Justine Davis moved and Mr O’Gallagher seconded that:

The minutes of meeting No. 14 of 24 July 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr Howe moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

The Committee write to the Treasurer noting the Government’s position regarding participation by Paspaley and Clough BMD Joint Venture in the Committee’s inquiry into the Ship Lift Project, agreeing to the suggested protocol to streamline proceedings and requesting that the Treasurer issue a consent letter to Paspaley and Clough BMD Joint Venture regarding confidentiality clauses for the limited purpose of giving evidence and producing documents to the Committee.

Question put and passed.

Mr Howe moved and Mr O’Gallagher seconded that:

The Committee write to the Chief Executive Officer, Department of Logistics and Infrastructure, requesting that:

- a. copies of any agreements between the Northern Territory Government and Paspaley or Clough BMD Joint venture in relation to the Darwin Ship Lift Project are forwarded to the Committee Secretary as per the Treasurer’s advice.
- b. that representatives from the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure brief the Committee on the contents of tabled agreements at its next meeting scheduled for Friday 5 September 2025.

Question put and passed.

Mr Howe moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The Auditor-General be invited to brief the Committee on his report No. 1: 2025-26 at its next meeting scheduled for Friday 5 September 2025.

Question put and passed.

Mr Howe moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

The Committee agree to the extension sought by the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure regarding provision of responses to written questions on the IEPS.

Question put and passed.

3. INQUIRY INTO THE DARWIN SHIP LIFT PROJECT

Justine Davis moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of the responses to questions taken on notice from the Department of Treasury and Finance and the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure redacting any confidential information.

Question put and passed.

The Committee also agreed to hold a further public hearing on Wednesday 17 September 2025.

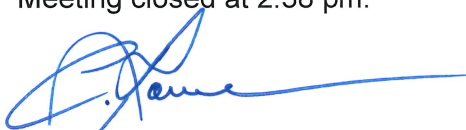
The Chair requested that Members save proposed questions for witnesses in the relevant Members Access folder. Committee Secretary to email file path to Members and compile contributions for consideration at the Committee's next meeting

4. NEXT MEETING

Private Briefings and Deliberative meeting 10.00 am – 12.00 pm, Friday 5 September 2025

Public Hearing 1.00 pm – 5.00 pm, Wednesday 17 September 2025

Meeting closed at 2.38 pm.



Mr Clinton Howe, MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 16

10.00 am, Friday 5 September 2025
Litchfield Room

Present: Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay
Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston
Mr Brian O’Gallagher, Member for Karama

Secretariat: Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Mr Will Dreyer, Senior Research Officer

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Justine Davis moved and Mr O’Gallagher seconded that:

The minutes of meeting No. 15 of 13 August 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. BRIEFING FROM THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

The Auditor-General, Mr Jara Dean, briefed the Committee on the following reports to the Legislative Assembly:

- Results of Financial Audits, Report No. 1: 2025-26
- Effectiveness of Internal Audit and Audit Committees, Report No. 3: 2025-26

The Auditor-General withdrew from the meeting.

3. BRIEFING FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LOGISTICS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The following departmental representatives briefed the Committee on the terms of agreements associated with the Darwin Ship Lift Project.

Ms Gemma Lake: Acting Chief Executive Officer
Ms Giovina d’Alessandro: Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Ms Joanna Pethick: Acting Executive Director

The departmental representatives withdrew from the meeting.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted

5. INQUIRY INTO THE DARWIN SHIP LIFT PROJECT

It was agreed that:

- proposed questions of the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure be forwarded to the Department for a written response to be received by Friday 26 September 2025.

The Chair requested that Members provide any additional questions for witnesses to the Committee Secretary by Tuesday 9 September 2025.

- Committee Secretary to draft letters inviting Paspaley and Clough BMD to appear before the Committee at a public hearing on 17 September 2025 and providing an indicative topic list or question themes to allow targeted preparation, for the Chair's consideration.

6. INQUIRY INTO THE INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT PROVISIONAL SUM

Consideration of responses to written questions from the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure deferred to next deliberative meeting.

7. PETITIONS

Consideration of Petition No. 15 deferred to next deliberative meeting.

8. NEXT MEETING

Public Hearing 1.00 pm – 5.00 pm, Wednesday 17 September 2025

Meeting closed at 12.30 pm.



**Mr Clinton Howe, MLA
Chair**



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 17

1.00 pm, Wednesday 17 September 2025
Litchfield Room

- Present:** Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay
Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston
Mr Brian O’Gallagher, Member for Karama
- Secretariat:** Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Mr Will Dreyer, Senior Research Officer
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1. PUBLIC HEARING – INQUIRY INTO DARWIN SHIP LIFT

The Committee heard from the following witnesses:

Clough BMD Joint Venture

Jeff Gallus: Executive General Manager, Constructions

John Galvin: Chief Bidding, Engineering & Concessions Officer

Nicole Whitby: Legal representative for Clough BMD Joint Venture

Questions Taken on Notice

1. Can you provide a breakdown of cost increases associated with project delays, construction materials inflation and labour inflation?
2. How do you determine whether employees are locals?
3. In the event that the Northern Territory Government stopped this project, what are the rights that Clough has and what would the likely cost to the NTG be?

The witnesses withdrew.

Paspaley Pearls Group

James Paspaley: Executive Director

Dr Samuel Buchanan: Chief Operating Officer

Questions Taken on Notice

1. Could you provide a list of third-party businesses or consultants that have been engaged throughout the process?
2. Are you able to provide an overview of the costs that you have incurred in the last 10 years.

The witnesses withdrew.

Department of Logistics and Infrastructure

Gemma Lake: Acting Chief Executive Officer

Joanna Pethick: Acting Executive Director Infrastructure NT

Giovina D’Alessandro: General Manager Infrastructure NT

Questions Taken on Notice

1. What specific documents were withheld from the Auditor-General and why?

2. In the future, how will NTG ensure that key decision documents are available for audit without compromising commercial interests?
3. For decisions where documentation was withheld, what steps if any were taken to verify that the decisions are still defensible?
4. What are the ongoing maintenance cost estimates?

The witnesses withdrew.

2. INQUIRY INTO THE INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT PROVISIONAL SUM

The Committee agreed to request representatives from the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure to appear before it at a public hearing from 9.00 am to 10.00 am on Thursday 25 September 2025.

3. NEXT MEETING

Public Hearing: 9.00 am to 10.00 am, Thursday 25 September 2025 – Inquiry into the Indigenous Employment Provisional Sum.

Meeting closed at 4.40 pm.



Mr Clinton Howe, MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 19

10.00 am, Friday 10 October 2025
Litchfield Room

Present: Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale
Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston
Mr Brian O’Gallagher, Member for Karama
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay

Secretariat: Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Mr Will Dreyer, Senior Research Officer

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Justine Davis moved and Mr O’Gallagher seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 18 of 25 September 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

- *ACPAC Conference 2026*

Mr O’Gallagher moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

The Committee’s in principle support for members to participate in professional development opportunities such as the ACPAC Conference 2026 be noted.

Question put and passed.

The Committee further agreed to discuss potential conference attendees at its next meeting.

- *Publication of Responses to Written Questions and Questions Taken on Notice*

Mr O’Gallagher moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of responses to questions taken on notice and written questions from Paspaley Pearls Group and the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure redacting any references to the submission from Clough BMD Joint Venture which remains confidential.

- *Proposed Changes to Statutory Integrity Offices*

The Committee agreed to invite the Auditor-General to brief the Committee at its next meeting on the issues raised in his correspondence regarding Proposed Changes to Statutory Integrity Offices.

3. INQUIRY INTO THE INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT PROVISIONAL SUM

The Committee agreed that the Chair’s draft report should reflect the key findings and proposed recommendations as set out in the Consideration of Evidence document and discussed in the meeting.

4. INQUIRY INTO THE DARWIN SHIP LIFT PROJECT

The Committee agreed that the Chair's draft report should reflect the key findings and proposed recommendations as set out in the Consideration of Evidence document and discussed in the meeting.

5. PETITIONS

Mr O'Gallagher moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

The Committee not recommend Petition No. 15 for debate noting that there will be an opportunity to raise any concerns during the second reading of the Anti-Discrimination Amendment Bill 2025.

Question put and passed.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee discussed the potential timeframe for completion of the Inquiry into the Acacia Digital Patient Record System and agreed to consider the inquiry timeframe and plan in more detail at the Committee's meeting scheduled for Wednesday 22 October 2025.

7. NEXT MEETING

12.00 pm Wednesday 15 October 2025

Meeting closed at 11.10 pm.



Mr Clinton Howe, MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 21

1.30 pm, Tuesday 28 October 2025
Litchfield Room

- Present:** Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale
Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay
- Apologies:** Mr Brian O’Gallagher, Member for Karama
- Secretariat:** Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Mr Will Dreyer, Senior Research Officer
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1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Justine Davis moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 20 of 15 October 2025 be confirmed

Question put and passed.

2. CONSIDERATION OF CHAIR’S DRAFT REPORT: INQUIRY INTO THE INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT PROVISIONAL SUM

Justine Davis moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

Recommendation 2 be amended to read: The Committee recommends that the Government, specifically the Contractor Compliance Unit, strengthen its internal systems to support Aboriginal Territorians to have greater participation in the Northern Territory’s workforce and procurement outcomes.

Question put and passed.

Mrs Zio moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

The Committee adopt the Chair’s draft report: *Inquiry into the Indigenous Employment Provisional Sum*, as amended, to be tabled out of session with Speaker on Thursday 30 October 2025 pursuant to Standing Order 200(4), for subsequent tabling in the Assembly on Tuesday 25 November 2025.

Question put and passed.

3. CONSIDERATION OF CHAIR’S DRAFT REPORT: DARWIN SHIP LIFT PROJECT

Justine Davis moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

Recommendation 1 be amended to read: The Committee recommends that, following consideration of the evidence received and contractual obligations, the Government continues with and completes construction of the Darwin Ship Lift and Marine Industries Complex.

Question put and passed.

Mrs Zio moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

Recommendation 4 be amended to read: that the Government coordinates the implementation of initiatives to address workforce skills shortages that may impact on the capacity of the Ship Lift facility to meet anticipated service demands.

Question put and passed.

Mrs Zio moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

The Committee adopt the Chair's draft report: *Inquiry into the Darwin Ship Lift Project*, as amended, to be tabled out of session with Speaker on Thursday 30 October 2025 pursuant to Standing Order 200(4), for subsequent tabling in the Assembly on Tuesday 25 November 2025.

Question put and passed.

4. INQUIRY REFERRAL: ACACIA DIGITAL PATIENT RECORD SYSTEM

It was agreed that the Committee Secretary would provide a briefing note regarding options for progressing the inquiry for consideration at the Committee's next meeting scheduled for 26 November 2025.

5. CONSIDERATION OF PETITION NO 18

Mr Howe moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The Committee not refer Petition No. 18 for debate given that the Anti-Discrimination Amendment Bill 2025 has been passed into law.

Question put and passed.

6. NEXT MEETING

12.00 pm Wednesday 26 November 2025

Meeting closed at 2.24 pm.

Mr Clinton Howe, MLA
Chair