



## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2008

### REPORT

**TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008**  
**WEDNESDAY 18 JUNE 2008**  
**THURSDAY 19 JUNE 2008**  
**FRIDAY 20 JUNE 2008**

The Estimates Committee examined the estimates of proposed expenditure contained in the Appropriation Bill 2008-2009, in particular on the estimates relating to the portfolios of the:

Speaker  
Treasurer  
Minister for Planning and Lands  
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport  
Minister for Public Employment  
Chief Minister  
Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services  
Minister for Major Projects and Trade  
Minister for Climate Change  
Minister for Territory-Federal Relations and Statehood  
Minister for Information, Communications and Technology Policy  
Minister for Multicultural Affairs  
Minister for Employment, Education and Training  
Minister for Families  
Minister for Child Protection  
Minister for Indigenous Policy  
Minister for Arts and Museums  
Minister for Women's Policy  
Minister for Health  
Minister for Justice and Attorney-General  
Minister for Racing, Gaming and Licensing  
Minister for Alcohol Policy  
Minister for Business and Economic Development  
Minister for Tourism  
Minister for Housing  
Minister for Asian Relations  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Defence Support  
Minister for Essential Services  
Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries  
Minister for Mines and Energy  
Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage  
Minister for Parks and Wildlife

Minister for Sport and Recreation  
 Minister for Corporate and Information Services  
 Minister for Senior Territorians  
 Minister for Young Territorians  
 Minister Assisting the Chief Minister on Multicultural Affairs  
 Minister for Local Government  
 Minister for Central Australia

The Committee notes the Outputs contained in the estimates of the proposed expenditure for the above portfolios and reports that there was concern expressed by some Members of the Committee in respect of:

<b>PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>KEY AREAS OF CONCERN</b>
Legislative Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabling works status and benefits</li> <li>• Environmental policies and practices</li> <li>• Committee expenditure and reports tabled</li> <li>• Modernisation of parliamentary practices and procedures</li> <li>• Rebroadcasting of parliament</li> <li>• Sound and vision in the Chamber</li> <li>• Statehood Steering Committee and its reporting relationships</li> <li>• Use of Hansard search function</li> <li>• Members' travel and vehicles</li> <li>• Provision of after hours IT services</li> <li>• Electorate offices capital costs</li> <li>• Security at Parliament House</li> <li>• Occupancy status of the NT Library and Craft Council shop at Parliament House and payment of rent</li> <li>• Cessation of previous café lease</li> </ul>
Treasury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost over-runs of consultancies</li> <li>• Costs associated with Budget related publications</li> <li>• Internal auditing processes</li> <li>• Agency's assets register</li> <li>• Efficiency dividend</li> <li>• Resourcing of investment services</li> <li>• Process to ensure performance measures are a realistic indication of outcomes</li> <li>• Commonwealth special purpose payments</li> <li>• Stockmarket impact</li> <li>• Development and expansion of the NT economy</li> <li>• Policy fiscal analysis and advice to agencies</li> <li>• Acceleration of undergrounding works by Power and Water</li> <li>• Projections of revenue in future years</li> <li>• Stamp duty on exploration licences</li> <li>• Funding of the oncology unit</li> <li>• Tax related subsidies</li> <li>• Superannuation liabilities of Government</li> <li>• Treasurer's Advance</li> <li>• Employee Entitlements</li> <li>• Impact of the increased cost of diesel upon the financial sustainability of Power and Water</li> </ul>

Darwin Port Corporation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current and future shipping capacity of the Harbour and port operations</li> </ul>
Planning and Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residential land development planning and turn-off</li> <li>• Berrimah Farm development</li> <li>• Site of the new prison</li> <li>• Regulatory impact on housing costs</li> <li>• Planning standards</li> <li>• Licensing of builders</li> <li>• Litchfield land objectives</li> <li>• Construction of the Waterfront development</li> <li>• Internal auditing processes</li> <li>• Staffing and interstate staff travel</li> <li>• Alternative fuel sources</li> <li>• Safety of bus travel</li> </ul>
Chief Minister	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tendering processes</li> <li>• Whistleblowers legislation</li> <li>• The Inpex project</li> <li>• Waterfront development progress</li> <li>• Sponsorship of major events</li> <li>• Marketing and communications</li> </ul>
Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police recruitment and attrition</li> <li>• Juvenile crime</li> <li>• Gangs</li> <li>• Crime statistics</li> <li>• Domestic violence</li> <li>• Proactive policing</li> <li>• Alice Springs call centre</li> </ul>
Employment, Education and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apprenticeship commencements and completions</li> <li>• Industry needs focussed training</li> <li>• Australian technical college</li> <li>• Occupational health and safety</li> <li>• School resourcing</li> <li>• Closing the Gap</li> <li>• Remote teaching training</li> <li>• School attendance</li> <li>• Workers compensation claims in schools</li> <li>• National student testing</li> <li>• Student suspensions</li> <li>• Support for students at risk</li> </ul>
Families / Child Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child protection resourcing and notifications</li> <li>• Closing the Gap</li> <li>• Child Protection Workers</li> </ul>

Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient travel</li> <li>• Radiation oncology services</li> <li>• Emergency services</li> <li>• Disaster response</li> <li>• Nurse practitioners</li> <li>• Aeromedical services at Tindal Airport</li> <li>• Palmerston Health Centre</li> <li>• Visiting services</li> <li>• Dental surgery wait times</li> <li>• Dental screening for children</li> <li>• BreastScreen service in Alice Springs</li> </ul>
Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native title claim</li> <li>• Facilities at Alice Springs courthouse</li> <li>• Payment for jury duty</li> <li>• Prosecutions for gang related activity</li> <li>• Siting of the new jail</li> <li>• Women in prison</li> <li>• Prisoner work gangs</li> </ul>
Business, Economic and Regional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development projects in regions</li> <li>• Coordination with local government shires</li> <li>• Assistance to business</li> <li>• Defence support</li> <li>• Skilled migration visas</li> <li>• Indigenous business grants</li> <li>• Fuel price</li> </ul>
Land Development Corporation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilisation of land adjacent to East Arm</li> </ul>
Asian Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional engagement coordination</li> <li>• Performance measures</li> <li>• Agency structure</li> </ul>
Tourism NT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Market trends</li> <li>• Infrastructure investment</li> <li>• Destinations development</li> <li>• Regional development</li> </ul>
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing costs</li> <li>• Alternative energy generation in remote communities</li> <li>• Housing shortfall</li> <li>• Management of the public housing stock</li> </ul>

Mines and Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oil exploration</li> <li>• Arafura Resources</li> <li>• Regional engagement</li> <li>• Probity audit</li> <li>• Exploration licence fees</li> <li>• Indigenous employment in industry</li> <li>• Mining at Koongarra</li> <li>• MacArthur River mine expansion</li> <li>• Rare earth deposits at Nolan's Bore</li> <li>• Mt Todd mine</li> <li>• Exploration permits</li> <li>• Marketing the NT's resource potential</li> <li>• Sunrise Gas Project</li> <li>• Environmental assessment and management</li> <li>• Alternative energy sources</li> <li>• Fossicking permits</li> </ul>
Primary Industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development strategies</li> <li>• Output measurement</li> <li>• Future of Berrimah Farm operations</li> <li>• Audit of research facilities</li> <li>• Joint WA / NT initiatives for the Ord</li> </ul>
Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barramundi licence buyback</li> <li>• Bag limits for targeted species</li> <li>• Cherapin stocks</li> <li>• Boat ramps</li> <li>• Recreational fishing infrastructure</li> <li>• Viability of various aquaculture initiatives</li> <li>• Barramundi release</li> </ul>
Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management of facilities and activities in parks</li> <li>• Joint management arrangements</li> <li>• Park fees</li> <li>• Recreational parks use guidelines</li> <li>• Threatened and protected species</li> <li>• Natural resource management</li> <li>• Flood forecasting</li> <li>• Water management</li> <li>• Environmental initiatives</li> <li>• Crocodile industry</li> <li>• Preservation of heritage sites</li> <li>• Environment Protection Authority activity</li> </ul>
Sport and Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of sports development</li> <li>• Geographical distribution of representation at elite level</li> <li>• Grant funding distribution</li> <li>• Assistance in remote communities</li> <li>• NTIS-supported sports</li> <li>• Use and management of facilities</li> <li>• Sponsorship of sporting events</li> </ul>

Corporate and Information Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporate review</li> <li>• Procurement services</li> <li>• Security breach of NTPS mainframe system</li> </ul>
Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local government reform</li> <li>• Ownership and allocation of local government assets</li> <li>• Outstation policy</li> <li>• Service delivery models</li> <li>• Translator services</li> <li>• Local government boards</li> <li>• No elected councils until October</li> <li>• Job retention for employees</li> <li>• Business planning</li> <li>• Contractual arrangements for local government reform processes</li> <li>• Job creation and employment under the new shire arrangements</li> </ul>