NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No. 39
Wednesday 18 October 2017

1. MEETING
The Assembly met at 10.00. The Speaker, the Honourable Kezia Purick, presided.

2. PRAYERS

3. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY
Mr Guyula delivered the Acknowledgement of Country on behalf of the Assembly.

4. VISITORS
The Speaker advised Honourable Members of the presence in the gallery of students from the STEPs Adult Migrant English Program and their teachers.
On behalf of all Members the Speaker extended a warm welcome to the visitors.

5. BIOLOGICAL CONTROL AMENDMENT BILL 2017 (SERIAL 33)
Mr Vowles (Minister for Primary Industry and Resources), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the Biological Control Act tabled the Explanatory Statement (paper 460) and the statement on Human Rights compatibility (paper 461).
Mr Vowles moved the Bill be read a first time and delivered an explanatory speech.
Bill read a first time.
Mr Vowles moved that the Bill be referred to the Economic Policy Scrutiny Committee for report by the first Meeting Day in 2018.
Question put and passed.

6. PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL 2017 (SERIAL 32)
Ms Moss (Minister for Environment and Natural Resources), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the Parks and Wildlife Commission Act and the Explanatory Statement (paper 462) and the statement on Human Rights compatibility (paper 463).
Ms Moss moved the Bill be read a first time and delivered an explanatory speech.
Bill read a first time.
Ms Moss moved that the Bill be referred to the Social Policy Scrutiny Committee for report by the first Meeting Day in 2018.
Question put and passed.
7. **PASTORAL LAND LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2017 (SERIAL 34)**
Ms Moss (Minister for Environment and Natural Resources), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the Pastoral Land Act and Pastoral Land Regulations and tabled the Explanatory Statement (paper 464) and the statement on Human Rights compatibility (paper 465).
Ms Moss moved the Bill be read a first time and delivered an explanatory speech.
Bill read a first time.
Ms Moss moved that the Bill be referred to the Economic Policy Scrutiny Committee for report by the first Meeting Day in 2018.
Question put and passed.

8. **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: MINISTERIAL POLICY STATEMENT ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN MOTION TO NOTE**
Resumption of debate on the question that the Assembly take note of the Statement.
Mr Gunner, Ms Wakefield, Ms Fyles.
Debate suspended.

Suspension of Meeting: The meeting of the Assembly was suspended between 11.51 and 14.00.

9. **MOTION: LEAVE OF ABSENCE AGREED TO**
Ms Fyles moved that a leave of absence for today be granted to Mr Costa on account of personal reasons.
Motion agreed to.

10. **NOTICES**
The following notices were given:
1. Ms Fyles (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) will present on the next meeting day a Bill entitled Independent Commissioner Against Corruption (Consequential and Related Amendments) Bill 2017 (Serial 35).
2. Ms Manison (Treasurer) will move on the next meeting day that the Assembly:
   • Condemns the move by Federal Treasurer Scott Morrison to change the measure of Horizontal Fiscal Equalisation from “equal” to “reasonable”.
   • Stands united against this proposal, which would widen the gap on Indigenous disadvantage, stifle development in the North, and lead to a permanent drop in the Territory’s GST revenue.
   • Writes to the Federal Treasurer Scott Morrison, calling on him to make no changes to how GST revenues are distributed, unless all States and Territories are in agreement.
   • And calls on the Opposition Leader to ensure his party colleague Senator Scullion stands up for the Territory on this issue.
3. Mr Gunner (Chief Minister) will move on the next meeting day that the Assembly agrees to extend the reporting period for the Political Donations Inquiry until 30 of June 2018.
11. QUESTIONS

14.01 Mr Higgins to Mr Gunner
14.04 Mr Higgins to Ms Moss
14.07 Mrs Finocchiaro to Mr Gunner
14.10 Mrs Finocchiaro to Ms Wakefield
14.12 Mr Higgins to Mr Gunner
14.16 Mr Higgins to Ms Fyles
14.19 Mr Wood to Ms Moss
14.23 Mr Wood to Ms Moss – Supplementary
14.24 Mr Mills to Ms Fyles
14.29 Mr Wood to Ms Manison
14.32 Mr Mills to Ms Lawler
14.35 Mr Wood to Ms Manison
14.39 Mrs Finocchiaro to Mr Gunner
14.43 Mr Mills to Ms Fyles
14.46 Mr Higgins to Mr Gunner
14.48 Mr Wood to Mr McCarthy
14.52 Mr Guyula to Ms Lawler
14.54 Mrs Finocchiaro to Ms Fyles
14.58 Mr Wood to Mr McCarthy

Ms Fyles (Leader of Government Business) asked that further questions be placed on the Written Question Paper.

Ms Moss (Minister for Environment and Natural Resources), pursuant to Standing Order 115, clarified an answer to a previous question from Mr Guyula.

12. SPEAKER’S RULING REGARDING STANDING ORDER 43
The Speaker made a ruling relating to Standing Order 43 allowing Members to move their own motion for an extension of time.

13. MOTION: A BILL OF RIGHTS FOR NORTHERN TERRITORY INDIGENOUS PEOPLES MOTION AS AMENDED AGREED TO
Mr Guyula, pursuant to notice, moved that:

- The Northern Territory Government notes the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and,
- Using this Declaration as a basis, legislate a Bill of Rights for Northern Territory Indigenous Peoples.

Debate ensued.

Mr Guyula, Ms Fyles

Ms Fyles moved the following amendment:

Delete all words after the word Peoples in the first paragraph and replace with the following:

1. Consult with Territorians to develop options for greater statutory and community recognition of Aboriginal law, culture and identity informed by;
2. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
3. Work relating to constitutional development for the Northern Territory;
4. Consultations regarding Aboriginal Justice Agreements; and
5. The Government’s consultations regarding Treaty and other forms of agreement-making with Aboriginal Territorians.

Mr Higgins, Mr Vowles, Mr Wood, Ms Uibo, Mr Paech, Ms Ah Kit, Mr McConnell.

Amendment put and passed. Question put and passed.

14. MOTION: NT VOTING SYSTEM NOT AGREED TO
Mr Wood, pursuant to notice, moved that the Northern Territory Parliament inquire into whether the Territory should change from a preferential voting system to a proportional voting system.

Debate ensued.

Mr Wood, Mr Higgins, Ms Fyles, Mr Wood.

Question put and not agreed to.

15. MOTION: ASSESSMENT OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY ONSHORE GAS INDUSTRY NOT AGREED TO
Resumption of debate on the question that:

• This Assembly calls upon the Northern Territory Government to conduct a comprehensive economic assessment of how a carefully managed onshore gas industry would affect the Northern Territory.

• This assessment should include but not be restricted to an assessment of royalty scheme options for the Northern Territory and the effect on regional economic development including employment and training.

• An assessment of the economic impact of onshore gas exploration on small to medium sized Northern Territory enterprises.

• And consideration should also include an assessment of gas reservation policy options and a cost benefit analysis of gas reservation or otherwise on Northern Territory economic development.

Debate resumed.

Mr Higgins, Mr Mills.

Question put and not agreed to.

16. VISITORS
The Deputy Speaker advised Honourable Members of the presence in the gallery of Mrs Rhonda Higgins and party.

On behalf of all Members the Deputy Speaker extended a warm welcome to the visitors.

17. MOTION: LOCAL BUSINESS AND JOBS CREATION AGREED TO
Resumption of debate on the question that this Assembly calls on the Territory Government to take seriously the importance of local businesses for the creation of jobs in the Northern Territory.

Debate resumed.

Mr Mills.

Question put and passed.

18. ADJOURNMENT
Ms Fyles (Leader of Government Business) moved that the Assembly do adjourn.
Mr Higgins, Ms Lawler, Mr Guyula

**Paper Tabled:** Mr Guyula by leave, tabled a Statement of eminent Australians on the continuing damage caused by the discrimination, racism and lack of justice towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders peoples, exemplified by the continuation of the Northern Territory Intervention (Paper 474)

Ms Moss, Mr Seivers, Mr Kirby, Ms Uibo, Ms Ah Kit

The Assembly adjourned at 20:09 until Thursday 19 October 2017 at 10.00.

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**DEEMED PAPERS**

Pursuant to Standing Order 239 the following papers were deemed to have been tabled:

**Annual Reports 2016-2017:**
- Department of Corporate and Information Services, 2016-2017 (Paper 466)
- Department of Treasury and Finance, 2016-2017 (Paper 467)
- Northern Territory Auditor-General’s Office, 2016-2017 (Paper 468)
- Northern Territory Motor Accidents (Compensation) Commission, 2016-2017 (MAAC) (Paper 469)
- Northern Territory Treasury Corporation, 2016-2017 (Paper 470)
- Power and Water Corporation, 2016-2017 (Paper 471)
- Utilities Commission of the Northern Territory, 2016-2017 (Paper 472)

**OmbudsmanNT:**
- Report, Little Fish Are Sweet – Administration of a high volume, low value, subsidy scheme, September 2017 (Paper 473)

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**ATTENDANCE**

All Members attended the meeting, except Mrs Lambley and Mr Costa on leave.

MICHAEL TATHAM
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly