



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

14th Assembly

Estimates Committee

Terms of Reference

Resolution of 12 November 2020

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 (2020-2021) Bill (the Appropriation Bill) and related budget documents, and
 2. 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 2020-21.
2. The membership of the Committee will be four Government Members, being:
 - the Member for Johnston, Joel Bowden - who will be the Chair of the committee;
 - the Member for Arafura, Lawrence Costa;
 - the Member for Fong Lim, Mark Monaghan; and
 - the Member for Blain, Mark Turner,

The remainder of the committee will comprise of two Opposition Members and one non-party aligned Member to be nominated in writing to the Speaker by the relevant Whip or non-party aligned Member.

3. The Committee may hold hearings on the following days
Monday, 7 December 2020
Tuesday, 8 December 2020
Wednesday, 9 December 2020
Thursday, 10 December 2020
Friday, 11 December 2020
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 shall be 8 hours, and for each other Minister and the Speaker 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 20 November 2020. 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 hearings will be available to the public via live stream to be COVID safe, and the Committee will implement a COVID safety plan.
9. All questions should conform to Standing Order 109 and answers will be concise and directly relevant to the question asked.
10. 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 First Clerk Assistant by 22 January 2021. Answers or additional information so received are authorised for publication.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. Following its second reading, the Appropriation Bill stands referred to the Committee for report by 11 December 2020.
15. The Assembly's Routine of Business for Friday, 11 December 2020 is:
 1. 14.30
Report from Estimates Committee and consideration of Appropriation Bill
 2. Government Business – Notices and Orders of the Day
 3. Papers
16. 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 (2020-2021) Bill stand as part of the Bill, and the report of the Estimates Committee be noted.
17. 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.
18. 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 stand as part of the Bill.
19. When the Appropriation Bill has been agreed to by the Assembly, the third reading may be taken into consideration immediately.
20. This resolution shall have effect notwithstanding anything contained in Standing and Sessional Orders.