



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

14th Assembly

Estimates Committee

Terms of Reference

Resolution of 17 May 2023

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 (2023-2024) Bill 2023 (the Appropriation Bill) and related budget documents, and
 2. Stamp Duty Amendment Bill 2023, 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 2023-24.
2. The membership of the Committee will be three Government Members, one Opposition Member and one non-party aligned Member to be nominated in writing to the Speaker by the relevant Whip or non-party aligned Member. Nominations to the Speaker should occur no later than Monday, 22 May 2023.
3. The Committee may hold hearings on the following days:
 - Tuesday, 13 June 2023
 - Wednesday, 14 June 2023
 - Thursday, 15 June 2023
 - Monday, 19 June 2023
 - Tuesday, 20 June 2023
 - Wednesday, 21 June 2023
 - Thursday, 22 June 2023
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 26 May 2023. 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 First Clerk Assistant by 17 July 2023. 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 their second reading, the Appropriation Bill and the Stamp Duty Amendment Bill 2023 stand referred to the Committee for report by 22 June 2023.
14. The Assembly's Routine of Business for Thursday, 22 June 2023 is:
 1. 2.30pm
Prayers and Acknowledgement of Country
 2. Report from Estimates Committee and consideration of Appropriation Bill and the Stamp Duty Amendment Bill 2023.
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 (2023-2024) Bill 2023 stand as printed and the clauses of the Stamp Duty Amendment Bill 2023 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 and the clauses of the Stamp Duty Amendment Bill is agreed to, the following question is proposed and put immediately:

that the remainder of the Bills stand as printed
18. When the Bills have been agreed to by the Assembly, their third reading may be taken into consideration immediately.
19. This resolution shall have effect notwithstanding anything contained in Standing and Sessional Orders.