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# MEDIA RELEASE

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## SELECT COMMITTEE ON OPENING PARLIAMENT TO THE PEOPLE

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27 October 2016

### CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

### HAVE YOUR SAY ON HOW PARLIAMENT WORKS

The Chair of the Select Committee on Opening Parliament to the People, Mr Jeff Collins MLA, has announced the Committee is calling for submissions to its inquiry into options for parliamentary reform. The Committee is looking at how to increase public participation in the law making process and policy debates and improve the effectiveness of Question Time.

“Consultation with the community is a vital step in delivering a more open and transparent Parliament”, Mr Collins said.

“The Committee has released a Green Paper outlining proposals drawn from discussion papers over the last two years. These proposals include:

- Establishing two portfolio based scrutiny committees to inquire into and report on issues within their portfolio areas, including Bills, Government scrutiny and Agency performance, and referred policy matters
- Referring all but urgent Bills to the scrutiny committees for community consultation
- Allocating Wednesday mornings of sitting weeks for committee meetings and hearings
- Allocating the remainder of Wednesdays to non-Government questions, motions and Bills
- Allowing debate of petitions with more than 500 signatures
- Reducing restrictions on supplementary questions at Question Time

“The Committee is seeking feedback on the merits of these proposals and further ideas on how to improve public participation, the effectiveness of Parliament and scrutiny of the Government.

“Through this Committee, the Assembly is asking for public comment on how it can better involve Territorians,” Mr Collins said.

Members of the public and interested organisations are invited to make submissions, which are due by 28 November 2016.

Further information on making submissions is available through the Assembly’s website [parliament.nt.gov.au](http://parliament.nt.gov.au), email [LCOMM@nt.gov.au](mailto:LCOMM@nt.gov.au) or phone (08) 8946 1485.

**END**

**For Comment Contact : Mr Jeffrey Collins MLA, C/- (08) 8946 1429**