



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

REPORT

Monday 19 June 2017

Tuesday 20 June 2017

Wednesday 21 June 2017

The Estimates Committee examined the estimates of proposed expenditure contained in the Appropriation Bill (2017-2018) and the Statements of Corporate Intent 2017-18 for the Power and Water Corporation, Jacana Energy and Territory Generation. Questions were raised by some Members on the following issues:

PORTFOLIO	ISSUES
<p style="text-align: center;">Treasurer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First home buyers • Cost of gas and impact on electricity prices in the NT • Cuts to GST revenue • Infrastructure investment • Cost saving measures • Major economic challenges facing the NT • Factors affecting population growth • Strategies to break 'boom and bust' cycle • Defence expenditure • Home Improvement Scheme • 'Buy Local' policy • Payments on behalf of Government • Gross State Product and State Final Demand • Payroll tax revenue • Strategies to improve own source revenue • Superannuation schemes • Role of the Utilities Commission • Electricity market reform process • Shared services provided • National Partnership Agreements
<p style="text-align: center;">Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote roads program • Infrastructure repairs and maintenance schedule • Civil construction program • Capital works budget • Health and education infrastructure projects • Community safety infrastructure program • Territory lifestyle infrastructure program • Calculating return on investment • 'Buy Local' procurement policy • Construction works at Taminmin College and Tennant Creek preschool

PORTFOLIO	ISSUES
<p style="text-align: center;">Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction works at Taminmin College and Tennant Creek preschool • Alice Springs palliative care facility • PET scanner and cyclotron project • Multi-storey carpark at Royal Darwin Hospital • Upgrades to remote health clinics • Infrastructure investment in remote morgues • Upgrade to Wadey Police Station • Update on Darwin netball stadium • Infrastructure investment in East Arnhem • Upgrade program for the Central Arnhem road • Increase to repairs and maintenance budget • Percentage of Government works awarded to local business • Update on boosting the economic stimulus package • Infrastructure budget for Homeland schools • Asset management • Update on flood mitigation strategies • Development assessment services • Industrial land development in Alice Springs • Central Darwin and Palmerston area plans • Dual occupancy • Building practitioner audits • Commencement of ride sharing in the NT • Regional and remote bus program trials • Improving public transport options • Solar options for government buildings • Drive Safe NT program • Road fatality figures and Towards Zero action plan • Coolalinga intersection upgrade • Capacity for roads to accommodate increase in cattle industry • Major road projects in the Katherine and Alice Springs regions • NT Planning Commission priorities
<p style="text-align: center;">Land Development Corporation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expenditure and revenue
<p style="text-align: center;">Chief Minister</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic objectives of Auditor-General's Office • Audit of Land Development Corporation payment re lease of land on Tiwi Islands • Cost of 2016 NT General Election • Strategies to increase voter participation in elections • Election interpreter services • Enforcement of compulsory voting • Implementation of 100 meter rule • Impact of move to optional preferential voting • Staffing numbers in Ombudsman's Office • Ombudsman's Office 'Empowering the Bush'

PORTFOLIO	ISSUES
Chief Minister	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ombudsman regional service delivery • Ombudsman investigations and inquiries • Climate change policy • Power price rises • Travel and related costs • Budget for promotion of renewable energy • Funding for Royal Commission into Youth Detention • Funding for establishment of an Independent Commission Against Corruption • Funding for non-government peak bodies • Review of water licences • Inquiry into political donations • Community response to Independent Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing • Agenda to revitalise the Darwin CBD • Community Champions Program • National Disability Insurance Scheme • Funding to support Ministers and Leader of the Opposition
Aboriginal Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal land claims • Community business profiles • Self-determination and local decision making agenda • Aboriginal treaty negotiations
Police, Fire and Emergency Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of paperless arrests • Number of people taken in to protective custody • Number and cost of workers compensation cases • Addressing youth crime • Breaches of bail • Anti-social behaviour • Police officer numbers • Gender equality in executive positions • Palmerston Police Station • Domestic violence command • Police presence at bottle shops • Preventing secondary supply of alcohol • Upgrades to Alyangula and Angurugu Police Stations • Crime prevention funding for Aboriginal Organisations • Road safety funding and initiatives
Trade, Business and Innovation Northern Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buy Local policy • Grant funding to interstate companies • Smarter Business Solutions program • Ministerial travel expenditure • Travel expenses for public servants • Positioning the NT for economic growth • Projected defence expenditure and defence advocate • Skilling Australia funding • Refugee and migrant business opportunities • Economic development in the bush

PORTFOLIO	ISSUES
<p style="text-align: center;">Attorney-General and Justice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of court services to remote communities • Community Justice Centre • Support for Victims of Crime • Forfeiture of proceeds of crime • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander justice unit • Sentenced to a job program • Travel expenditure • National Partnership Agreement funding cuts – impact on provision of legal services • Staffing for Royal Commission into Youth Detention • Establishment of Independent Commission Against Corruption • Civil and Administrative Tribunal • Social justice reforms • Aboriginal incarceration rates • Prisoner escapes • Bus services to correctional facilities • Electronic monitoring • Aboriginal justice agreement • Indigenous consumer awareness program • NT Fuel Watch website • Funding for Anti-Discrimination Commission • Review of the <i>Anti-Discrimination Act</i> • Implementation of the Banned Drinkers Register
<p style="text-align: center;">Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for alcohol rehabilitation services • 5 Year funding agreements model • Youth alcohol and other drug services • Expenditure on tobacco control • Supported accommodation and through care • Number of alcohol licences in the NT • Independent Alcohol Review • Suicide prevention funding • Mental health services • Inclusive practices training programs • Healthy Territorians program • Budgetary savings from the abolition of health boards • Travel expenditure • Completion of Palmerston Regional Hospital • Access to specialist health services in the NT • Strategies to reduce wait lists • Indigenous suicide rates in the NT • Indigenous life expectancy in the NT • Family Nurse program • Implementation of termination of pregnancy legislation • Remote morgue facilities • Renal services across the NT • Strategies to address contamination from PFAS

PORTFOLIO	ISSUES
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for specialist alcohol assessment services in remote communities and Homelands • Healing and rehabilitation centres on country • Strategies to deal with sniffing of Avgas • Allocation for volatile substance abuse • Palliative care facility for Central Australia • National Critical Care and Trauma Response verification • Delivery of PET scanner and cyclotron • Safety of remote area workforce • Renal health service provision in remote communities • Commencement of works for Nightcliff renal facility
Legislative Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel expenditure • Member Travel reports • Replacement of Chamber cameras • Independents' research staff • Legislative Assembly website • Parliament House repairs and maintenance
Housing and Community Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overcrowding in community housing • Housing for NGO staff in communities • New housing in Homelands • Bushlight program • Shire employment and skill development • Indigenous and female staffing numbers • Travel expenditure • Loan for Palmerston Council carpark • Housing stock • Community housing • Public housing waitlist methodology • Public housing safety officers • Government employee housing allocation policy • Public housing upgrades • Repairs and maintenance of Indigenous housing • Aged care accommodation options • Implementation of remote housing strategy • Aboriginal Interpreter Service • Local Government roads • Morgues in remote communities • Repairs and maintenance of remote training centres • Local Government strategic infrastructure fund
Public Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older workers in the public service • Domestic violence leave • Indigenous workforce development • Women's leadership program
Primary Industry and Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsidies for onshore gas • Price impact of northern gas line • Hydraulic fracturing

PORTFOLIO	ISSUES
<p align="center">Primary Industry and Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensation to land holders for damage or loss of productivity resulting from gas exploration • Cost of promoting gas industry • Royalties from northern gas pipeline • Jemena insurance for environmental damage • Chandler Salt Mine • Nuclear waste repository • Ranger mine rehabilitation • Dundee Beach boat ramp • Travel expenditure • Buffalo industry • Camel and donkey industry • Crocodile enterprises • Banana freckle eradication program • Aboriginal marine program • Recreational fishing • PFAS water contamination • Water testing services • Mineral titles management • Funding for legacy mines
<p align="center">Environment and Natural Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel expenditure • Funding for Indigenous ranger groups • Beetaloo basin area water • Ranger mine rehabilitation working group • Flora and fauna mapping the future program • Weeds management • Water licensing in Darwin rural control district • Water advisory boards • Indigenous carbon unit • Fire abatement programs • Environment regulatory reform agenda • Support for environmental groups • Funding for Indigenous ranger groups • NTEPA assessments and decisions • Resourcing of NTEPA • Budget allocation for AAPA • Travel expenditure for AAPA • Protection of sacred sites
<p align="center">Tourism and Culture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel expenditure • Library services • Maintenance and operation of remote swimming pools • Sport and recreation budget outcomes • Arafura Games • Mataranka region hot springs • Megafauna showcase in Alice Springs • Promotion of tourism industry

PORTFOLIO	ISSUES
<p style="text-align: center;">Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incentives to support apprenticeships and traineeships • Scholarship programs for educators • Travel expenditure • Catering for population growth in Palmerston • Swimming and water safety programs in schools • Swim and Survive program • Distribution of additional funding for schools • Number of school based employees • Re-engagement programs • Healthy Life, Creative Life program • Staffing based in the Mitchell Centre • Staffing in bilingual schools • Staffing for direct instruction program • Staffing for the LANE program • Funding for remote school upgrades • Literacy and numeracy assessments • NAPLAN testing and results • Cross-cultural training for Indigenous teacher assistants • Funding for the Community Led Schools program • Vocational education and training in schools • Access to allied health professionals in schools • Support for students with special needs • Funding for transportable classrooms • Staffing and location of Families as First Teachers programs • Children and Families centres • Number and funding of Government and non-Government schools in the NT • Strategies to improve student outcomes in Middle School • Indigenous training strategy and trade training centres • Number of fee paying international students in NT schools • Allocation of tertiary education budget • Funding for Kormilda College • KPMG review of Indigenous boarding • Commonwealth Quality Schools funding • Fixed period contracts • Economic stimulus package for schools
<p style="text-align: center;">Territory Families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for youth detention facilities • Funding for youth diversion programs • Boot camps • Kinship care • NT Carers and Pensioner Concession scheme • Travel expenditure • Number of Indigenous children in care • Safe houses

PORTFOLIO	ISSUES
<p>Territory Families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Out of home care • Dual pathways service • Regional youth services • Support for frontline workers • Recruitment to youth outreach programs • Working with children clearance cards • Cost of upgrades to Don Dale and Alice Springs youth detention facilities • Bail accommodation services for young offenders • Role of youth outreach workers • Funding to address domestic violence • Domestic violence services in remote communities • Impact of cuts to national crisis line • Strategies to achieve gender equity • Gender equity and diversity scholarship and grant programs • Support for multicultural groups and events • Benefits of the Youth Round Table • Inclusion of hardship provisions in the Pensioners and Carers Concession scheme • Exploitation of the Pensioner and Carers Concession scheme • Number of people accessing the Pensioner and Carers Concession scheme • Expenditure on marketing and advertising • Policy regarding use of social media • Complaints process • Strategies to ensure client confidentiality • Staff numbers and percentage of staff that identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander • Number of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander staff in senior management positions
<p>Power and Water Corporation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar Transformation Plan and implementation of battery storage • Renewable energy policy • Capacity to meet the Government's renewable energy targets • Strategies to cater for disruptive technologies • Investment in waste water infrastructure upgrades • Water infrastructure upgrades • Identification of alternate water sources in remote communities • Introduction of smart meters • Benefits of Wickham Point gas facility and gas pipeline • Revenue from gas sales • Return on assets
<p>Jacana Energy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of full time staff • Number of staff in customer service • Number of staff that identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait

PORTFOLIO	ISSUES
<p style="text-align: center;">Jacana Energy</p>	<p>Islander</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies to improve percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff • Customer hardship policy • Strategies to assist customers to manage power usage • Strategies to improve customer experience • Payment plan options • Connection and reconnection costs • Penalties for late payments • Costs associated with transferring to a pre-paid meter
<p style="text-align: center;">Territory Generation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable and alternative energy strategy • Implementation of renewable energy initiatives • Transitioning Darwin/Katherine region to renewables • Viability of wind technology in the NT • Strategies to limit CO² emissions • Improving service delivery and reducing operational expenditure • Measuring and improving customer satisfaction • Work place health and safety strategies • Return on equity and assets

Ms Ngaree Ah Kit, MLA

CHAIR