



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Public Accounts Committee

Associated Minutes of Proceedings

**Public Accounts Committee
Annual Report 2016-17**

August 2017



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

13th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES

Meeting No. 1

12.33 pm, Tuesday, 25 October 2016

Ormiston Room

- Present:** Ms Kate Worden, MLA, Member for Sanderson
Mrs Lia Finocchiaro, MLA, Member for Spillett
Mr Paul Kirby, MLA, Member for Port Darwin
Mr Scott McConnell, MLA, Member for Stuart
Mr Terry Mills, MLA, Member for Blain
- Secretariat:** Mr Russell Keith, First Clerk Assistant and Committee Secretary
Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Ms Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer
-

1. MEETING

Mr Guyula provided his apologies.

2. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

The Chair called for nominations for Deputy Chair.

Mrs Finocchiaro proposed Mr Mills be Deputy Chair of the Committee. Mr McConnell seconded the proposal. Mr Mills was declared the Deputy Chair of the Committee.

3. OUTLINE OF ROLE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

The Chair noted the role of the Public Accounts Committee outlined in Standing Order 177.

4. BRIEFING FROM AUDITOR-GENERAL ON HER ROLE AND JUNE 2016 REPORT

The Auditor-General provided an overview of her role and the highlights from the Auditor-General's June 2016 Report to the Legislative Assembly.

5. WORK PROGRAM

The Committee agreed to seek a written briefing from the Office of Major Projects, Infrastructure and Investment on:

- The response to the Auditor-General's recommendations on pp106-7 of her June 2016 Report;
- The total cost of the Palmerston Regional Hospital;
- The audit process for the use of local workers under second tier contracts relating to the build of the Palmerston Regional Hospital.

6. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting to be during the luncheon suspension on Tuesday, 22 November 2016.

Meeting closed at 1.30 pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned to the left of the printed name and title.

**Ms Kate Worden, MLA
Chair**



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

13th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES

Meeting No. 2

12.06 pm, Tuesday, 29 November 2016

Litchfield Room

- Present:** Mrs Kate Worden, MLA, Member for Sanderson
Mrs Lia Finocchiaro, MLA, Member for Spillett
Mr Paul Kirby, MLA, Member for Port Darwin
Mr Scott McConnell, MLA, Member for Stuart
Mr Terry Mills, MLA, Member for Blain
Mr Yingiya Mark Guyula, MLA, Member for Nhulunbuy
- Attending** Ms Julie Crisp, Auditor-General of the Northern Territory
- Secretariat:** Mr Russell Keith, First Clerk Assistant and Committee Secretary
Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Ms Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer
Ms Annie McCall, Administration/Research Officer
-

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr McConnell moved and Mr Mills seconded:

That the minutes of meeting No 1 be adopted.

Question put and passed

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was noted.

4. AUDIT OF PALMERSTON REGIONAL HOSPITAL PROJECT

The Committee resolved:

1. That the Committee refer the response from the General Manager, Strategic Infrastructure and Projects dated 21 November 2016 to the Auditor-General for comment.
2. That the Committee authorises the Chair to refer any documents received by the Committee to the Auditor-General for comment at the Chair's discretion.

Question put and passed.

5. BRIEFING FROM AUDITOR GENERAL ON NOVEMBER 2016 REPORT

The Auditor-General provided a briefing on her November 2016 Report and also took questions on her June 2016 Report.

6. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting to be Tuesday, 14 February 2017.

Meeting closed at 1.08 pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate', written in a cursive style.

Mrs Kate Worden, MLA
Chair

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
13th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 3

12 noon, Tuesday, 14 February 2017

Litchfield Room

Present: Mrs Kate Worden, MLA, Member for Sanderson
Mrs Lia Finocchiaro, MLA, Member for Spillett
Mr Paul Kirby, MLA, Member for Port Darwin
Mr Scott McConnell, MLA, Member for Stuart
Mr Terry Mills, MLA, Member for Blain
Mr Yingiya Mark Guyula, MLA, Member for Nhulunbuy
Ms Julie Crisp, Auditor-General of the Northern Territory

Secretariat: Mr Russell Keith, First Clerk Assistant and Committee Secretary
Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Ms Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer
Ms Annie McCall, Administration/Research Officer

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr Mills moved and Mrs Finocchiaro seconded that:

That the Minutes of Meeting Number 2 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence was noted.

Transparency International Australia Conference

The Committee agreed to nominate Mr Mills to attend, on behalf of the Committee, the *National Integrity 2017: Building the public/private alliance* conference, in Brisbane on 16-17 March 2017, subject to him confirming his availability.

4. AUDITOR-GENERAL – DISCUSSION OF PALMERSTON REGIONAL HOSPITAL

The Committee agreed:

1. That the Committee write to the Chief Executive of the Department of Trade, Business and Innovation and the Chief Executive of the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics to outline their concerns, ask for a departmental response and invite them to address the next Committee meeting, with reference to the Auditor-General's letter regarding Palmerston Regional Hospital and major projects, dated 14 February 2017.
2. That the Committee write to the Minister for Trade, Business and Innovation and the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics to advise of the invitations for their Chief Executives to appear before the Committee.

5. ACPAC CONFERENCE

The Committee agreed that Mrs Worden and Mr Guyula would represent it at the ACPAC Conference in Brisbane on 19-21 April 2017.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr McConnell advised that he would be seeking to be discharged from the Committee.

7. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting to be Tuesday, 14 March 2017.

Meeting closed at 12.34

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate', written over a large, faint circular mark.

**Mrs Kate Worden, MLA
Chair**



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
13th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 4

12 noon, Monday, 27 February 2017

Litchfield Room

Present: Mrs Kate Worden, MLA, Member for Sanderson
Mrs Lia Finocchiaro, MLA, Member for Spillett
Mr Paul Kirby, MLA, Member for Port Darwin
Mr Terry Mills, MLA, Member for Blain
Mr Tony Sievers, MLA, Member for Brennan (by telephone)

Apologies: Mr Yingiya Mark Guyula, MLA, Member for Nhulunbuy

Secretariat: Mr Russell Keith, First Clerk Assistant and Committee Secretary
Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Ms Annie McCall, Administration/Research Officer

1. APOLOGIES

Mr Guyula was an apology due to a flight delay.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr Kirby moved and Mr Mills seconded that:

That the Minutes of Meeting Number 3 be confirmed, subject to correction of the apologies.

Question put and passed.

3. ACPAC CONFERENCE

As Mr Guyula could no longer attend the ACPAC conference, Mrs Finocchiaro moved and Mr Kirby seconded:

That Mr Sievers represent the Committee at the ACPAC Conference in Brisbane on 19-21 April 2017 in the place of Mr Guyula, subject to his availability.

Question put and passed.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence was noted.

5. INQUIRY INTO TAXI LICENSING AND SUBLEASING

The Committee agreed to:

1. Name its reference on the taxi industry as "Inquiry into Taxi Licensing and Subleasing" to better reflect the scope of the inquiry.
2. Accept any request from the author of a submission to keep the submission confidential and to amend the draft media release, advertisement and letter calling for submissions accordingly.

3. Call for submissions by 14 April 2017 and advertise this call, subject to 2 above, by:
 - a. issuing the media release at Attachment A
 - b. Placing the advertisement at Attachment B in the NT News, Centralian Advocate, Katherine Times and Tennant & District Times.
 - c. writing to the stakeholders identified in the terms of the letter at Attachment C
 - d. asking the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics to distribute the call for submissions to taxi drivers.

6. NEXT MEETING

Public Hearing, 21 March 2017.

Meeting closed at 12.34



Mrs Kate Worden, MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
13th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 5

12.06pm, Tuesday, 21 March 2017

Litchfield Room

- Present:** Mrs Kate Worden, MLA, Chair, Member for Sanderson
Mrs Lia Finocchiaro, MLA, Member for Spillett
Mr Terry Mills, MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain
Mr Tony Sievers, MLA, Member for Brennan
Mr Yingiya Mark Guyula, MLA, Member for Nhulunbuy
- Apologies:** Mr Paul Kirby, MLA, Member for Port Darwin
- Secretariat:** Mr Russell Keith, First Clerk Assistant and Committee Secretary
Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Ms Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer
Ms Annie McCall, Administration/Research Officer
-

1. APOLOGIES

Mr Kirby was an apology.

2. PUBLIC HEARING- PALMERSTON REGIONAL HOSPITAL AUDIT

The following witnesses appeared before the Committee:

- Mr Andrew Kirkman, Chief Executive, **Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics**
- Mr Brett Brogan, General Manager Infrastructure Investment and Contracts, **Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics**
- Mr Glen Brady, Project Director, **Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics**
- Mr Michael Tennant, Chief Executive, **Department of Trade, Business and Innovation**
- Ms Anne Tan, General Manager, Strategic Infrastructure and Projects, **Department of Trade, Business and Innovation**
- Mr Jason Robertson, Director Strategic Infrastructure, Strategic Infrastructure and Projects, **Department of Trade, Business and Innovation**
- Mr Michael Kalimnios, Chief Operating Officer, Top End Health Service, **Department of Health**

Mr Tennant took a question on notice regarding risk management and procurement protocols.

Mr Kalimnios took a question on notice regarding fitout and commission costs.

Mr Andrew Kirkman tabled a Project Status Report for Palmerston Regional Hospital, dated 17 March 2017.

The witnesses withdrew at 1.23pm.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr Mills moved and Mr Sievers seconded that:

That the Minutes of Meeting Number 4 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence was noted.

5. INQUIRY INTO TAXI LICENSING AND SUBLEASING

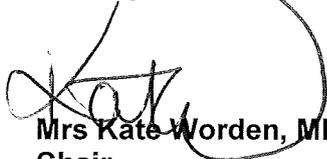
The Committee agreed to keep confidential the received material forwarded by the Chair on 13 March 2017.

The Committee agreed to ask the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics for up to date information on operator contact details.

6. NEXT MEETING

9 May 2017

Meeting closed at 1.40pm


Mrs Kate Worden, MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
13th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 6

12.05pm, Tuesday, 9 May 2017

Litchfield Room

Present: Mrs Kate Worden, MLA, Member for Sanderson
Mrs Lia Finocchiaro, MLA, Member for Spillett
Mr Paul Kirby, MLA, Member for Port Darwin
Mr Terry Mills, MLA, Member for Blain
Mr Tony Sievers, MLA, Member for Brennan
Mr Yingiya Mark Guyula, MLA, Member for Nhulunbuy
Mrs Julie Crisp, NT Auditor General

Apologies:

Secretariat: Mr Russell Keith, First Clerk Assistant and Committee Secretary
Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Ms Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer
Ms Annie McCall, Administration/Research Officer

1. BRIEFING FROM AUDITOR GENERAL

The Auditor-General briefed the Committee on her March 2017 report to the Assembly and discussed the Committee's previous hearing on major projects.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr Mills moved and Mr Sievers seconded that:

That the Minutes of Meeting Number 5 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Mr Kirby moved and Mr Sievers seconded that:

That the Committee authorises the publication of the transcript of the Public Hearing of 21 March 2017 and the answers to the questions on notice by Mr Tennant and Mr Kalimnios.

Question put and passed.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence was noted and submissions were accepted.

5. INQUIRY INTO TAXI LICENSING AND SUBLEASING

Mr Guyula moved and Mr Kirby seconded:

That the Committee agrees to

- a) keep all submissions confidential at this stage

- b) extend the due date for submissions to 2 June 2017
- c) write to all taxi drivers and licence holders to invite submissions to the inquiry, and approve the flyer seeking comment,
- d) request the Chief Executive of the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics to provide it with copies of all legal advice the Department has regarding the lawfulness of subleasing taxi licences under the *Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport Act* and of all records relating to the cancellation of licences under the Act where subleasing was a formal reason for the cancellation,
- e) invite the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics to a private briefing.

Question put and passed.

6. ACPAC CONFERENCE

Mrs Worden reported back the Committee.

7. NATIONAL INTEGRITY 2017 CONFERENCE

Mr Mills reported back to the Committee.

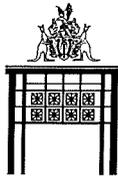
8. NEXT MEETING

TBA

Meeting closed at 13.24



**Mrs Kate Worden, MLA
Chair**



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
13th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 7

1.04pm, Tuesday, 30 May 2017

Litchfield Room

- Present:** Mrs Kate Worden, MLA, Chair, Member for Sanderson
Mrs Lia Finocchiaro, MLA, Member for Spillett
Mr Terry Mills, MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Blain
Mr Tony Sievers, MLA, Member for Brennan
Mr Paul Kirby, MLA, Member for Port Darwin
- Apologies:** Mr Yingiya Mark Guyula, MLA, Member for Nhulunbuy
- Secretariat:** Mr Russell Keith, First Clerk Assistant and Committee Secretary
Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Ms Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer
Ms Annie McCall, Administration/Research Officer
-

1. PRIVATE BRIEFING- INQUIRY INTO TAXI LICENSING AND SUBLEASING

The following witnesses appeared before the Committee:

- Mr Andrew Kirkman, Chief Executive, Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics
- Mr Simon Saunders, Executive Director Transport Safety & Services, Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics
- Mr Alex Rae, Director Passenger Transport, Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics
- Mr Greg Turner, Acting Manager Commercial Passenger Vehicle, Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics

The witnesses withdrew at 2.55 pm.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mrs Finocchiaro moved and Mr Sievers seconded that:

That the Minutes of Meeting Number 6 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence was noted.

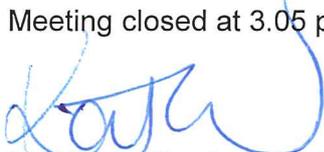
4. INQUIRY INTO TAXI LICENSING AND SUBLEASING

The Committee discussed the evidence received to date and agreed to the preparation of an options paper on how to address the issues identified regarding taxi licence allocation and subleasing.

5. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is to be convened by the Chair.

Meeting closed at 3.05 pm



**Mrs Kate Worden, MLA
Chair**



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
13th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 8

11.35am, Wednesday, 7 June 2017

Via teleconference

Present: Mrs Kate Worden, MLA, Member for Sanderson
Mr Paul Kirby, MLA, Member for Port Darwin
Mr Terry Mills, MLA, Member for Blain
Mr Tony Sievers, MLA, Member for Brennan
Mr Yingiya Mark Guyula, MLA, Member for Nhulunbuy

Apologies: Mrs Lia Finocchiaro, MLA, Member for Spillett

Secretariat: Mr Russell Keith, First Clerk Assistant and Committee Secretary
Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Ms Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer
Ms Annie McCall, Administration/Research Officer

1. MEETING

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr Kirby moved and Mr Sievers seconded that:

That the Minutes of Meeting Number 7 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

4. CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence was noted and submissions were accepted and are to be continued to be kept confidential.

Mr Mills moved and Mr Sievers seconded:

That the Committee:

- Write today to those making the submissions alleging corruption:
 - Thanking them for the submission and noting the Committee will consider the issues raised in its inquiry
 - Advising that the Committee plans to refer the allegations raised to the Public Interest Disclosures Commissioner, without identifying the source of the allegation, as the appropriate body for investigating criminal conduct, and encouraging them to contact the Office of the Commission to provide any details of such allegations.
 - Reassuring them that their personal information will not be disclosed and that their submission remains privileged

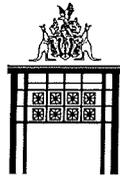
- On 8 June 2017 refer the allegations of corruption in submissions 6A, 51, 51A and 52 to the Public Interest Disclosures Commissioner, without identifying the source of the allegation.

Question put and passed.

5. **NEXT MEETING**
Friday 16 June 2017
Meeting closed at 11.50am

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate', is written over a large, faint circular stamp or watermark.

Mrs Kate Worden, MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
13th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 9

2.45pm, Friday, 16 June 2017

Ormiston Room

- Present:** Mrs Kate Worden, MLA, Member for Sanderson
Mr Paul Kirby, MLA, Member for Port Darwin
Mrs Lia Finocchiaro, MLA, Member for Spillett
- Apologies:** Mr Terry Mills, MLA, Member for Blain
Mr Tony Sievers, MLA, Member for Brennan
Mr Yingiya Mark Guyula, MLA, Member for Nhulunbuy
- Secretariat:** Mr Russell Keith, First Clerk Assistant and Committee Secretary
Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Ms Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer

1. CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence was noted.

2. INQUIRY INTO TAXI LICENSING AND SUBLEASING

The Analysis of Submissions and Options Paper were considered.

The Committee agreed to hold public hearings in Darwin on the 18th July 2017 and in Alice Springs on the 20 July 2017. The Committee also agreed to invite drivers' associations, companies and fleet networks to be witnesses at the public hearings, with the Secretariat to circulate a proposed list of witnesses for confirmation by email.

3. NEXT MEETING

Public Hearings - 18 July 2017 in Darwin and 20 July 2017 in Alice Springs.

Meeting closed at 3.45pm

Mrs Kate Worden, MLA
Chair