



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Public Accounts Committee

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**Associated Minutes of Proceedings**  
**Inquiry into the Darwin Waterfront Corporation**

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July 2025





# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15<sup>th</sup> Assembly

## Public Accounts Committee

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

#### Meeting No. 11

1.04 pm, Tuesday 27 May 2025  
Litchfield room

**Present:** Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale  
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay  
Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura  
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston  
Mr Brian O’Gallagher, Member for Karama

**Secretariat:** Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director Parliamentary Support  
Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer  
Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary  
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

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#### 1. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted.

#### 2. INQUIRY REFERRAL – DARWIN WATERFRONT CORPORATION

Mr Howe moved and Justine Davis seconded that the Committee:

1. adopt the proposed Terms of Reference for an Inquiry into the Darwin Waterfront Corporation.
2. invite submissions from the Darwin Waterfront Corporation, AustralAsia Railway Corporation, Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet and the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment to be received by close of business Monday 2 June 2025.
3. Hold a public briefing with representatives from the Darwin Waterfront Corporation from 2.30 – 4.30 pm on Tuesday 3 June 2025.

Mr O’Gallagher recorded his concern regarding whether the PAC was the most appropriate body to undertake the inquiry.

Questions put and passed.

#### 3. NEXT MEETING

Public Briefing: 2.30 pm, Tuesday 3 June 2025.

Meeting closed at 1.43 pm.

**Mr Clinton Howe, MLA**  
Chair



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15<sup>th</sup> Assembly

## Public Accounts Committee

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

#### Meeting No. 12

2.30 pm, Tuesday 3 June 2025  
Litchfield room

- Present:** Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale  
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay  
Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura  
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston  
Mr Brian O’Gallagher, Member for Karama
- Secretariat:** Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director Parliamentary Support  
Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer  
Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary  
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

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#### 1. CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS – INQUIRY INTO THE DARWIN WATERFRONT CORPORATION

Mr Howe moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of submission nos. 1 – 4, redacting personal information in all submissions such as personal addresses and phone numbers prior to publication.

Questions put and passed.

#### 2. PUBLIC BRIEFING – INQUIRY INTO THE DARWIN WATERFRONT CORPORATION

Mr O’Gallagher publicly acknowledged that he knows Mr Alastair Shields having previously worked with him on cross agency major projects including the Railway project and the INPEX project approximately 15 years ago.

The Committee heard from the following witnesses:

Mr Patrick Bellot: Chair – Darwin Waterfront Corporation

Mr Alastair Shields: Chief Executive Officer – Darwin Waterfront Corporation

The witnesses withdrew.

#### 3. MEDIA STATEMENT – INQUIRY INTO THE DARWIN WATERFRONT CORPORATION

Mr Howe moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

The Committee publish the following media statement on its website:

Following receipt of submissions and a public briefing, the Public Accounts Committee has unanimously decided that none of the allegations as set out in the inquiry Terms of Reference are substantiated. A full report to the Legislative Assembly will follow in due course.

Question put and passed.

#### 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Mr Howe moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The minutes of meetings No. 10 of 21 May 2025 and No. 11 of 27 May 2025 be confirmed.  
Question put and passed.

**5. NEXT MEETING**

Site visit Darwin Ship Lift and Deliberative Meeting: 9.00 am – 4.00 pm, Tuesday 8 July 2025.

Meeting closed at 4.25 pm.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Clinton Howe', is written over a faint, light blue circular watermark or stamp.

**Mr Clinton Howe, MLA**  
**Chair**



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15<sup>th</sup> Assembly

## Public Accounts Committee

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

#### Meeting No. 13

9.00 am, Tuesday 8 July 2025  
11 Export Drive and Litchfield Room

- Present:** Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale  
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay  
Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura  
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston  
Mr Brian O’Gallagher, Member for Karama
- Secretariat:** Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Dr Caroline Williams, Executive Director Parliamentary Support
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#### 1. 9.00 AM – 11.00 AM: SITE VISIT – DARWIN SHIP LIFT PROJECT

Mr Shane Dahlhelm: Executive Director, Infrastructure NT, Darwin Harbour Infrastructure Projects, Department of Logistics and Infrastructure provided members with a guided tour of the Darwin Ship Lift Project and associated Marine Maintenance Infrastructure site.

Committee re-convened at 12.00 pm in the Litchfield Room

#### 2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Mr Brown moved and Mr O’Gallagher seconded that:

The minutes of meetings No. 12 of 3 June 2025 as amended be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

#### 3. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted

#### 4. INQUIRY INTO THE DARWIN SHIP LIFT PROJECT

Justine Davis moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

- a) The Committee authorise publication of submission Nos. 1-3 and 5-6, redacting personal information in all submissions such as signatures, email addresses and phone numbers prior to publication.
- b) The Committee invite representatives from the Department of Trade, Business and Asian Relations, Paspaley Pearls Group, Department of Defence, Department of Logistics and Infrastructure and the Department of Treasury and Finance to appear before the Committee at a public hearing on Wednesday 23 July 2025.
- c) The Committee invite representatives from Clough BMD Joint Venture to appear before the Committee at a private hearing on Wednesday 23 July 2025.

Questions put and passed

#### 5. INQUIRY INTO THE INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT PROVISIONAL SUM

Justine Davis moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of submission No. 1, redacting personal information such as signatures, email addresses and phone numbers prior to publication.

Question put and passed.

The Committee deferred consideration of the written questions for the Department of Logistics to its next meeting. The Chair requested that any additional questions be forwarded to the secretariat.

#### 6. BRIEFING FROM THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

The Auditor-General briefed the Committee on the 2018 and 2024 audits of the Ship Lift Project and his proposed Annual Plan of Audit Work 2025-2026.

The Auditor-General withdrew from the meeting.

#### 7. CHAIR'S DRAFT REPORT – INQUIRY INTO THE DARWIN WATERFRONT CORPORATION

Mrs Zio moved and Mr O'Gallagher seconded that:

Recommendation 1 be removed from the report.

The Committee divided:

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
Mrs Zio	Justine Davis
Mr O'Gallagher	Mr Brown
Mr Howe	

Question put and passed.

Mr Howe moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The Committee adopt the Chair's draft report: *Inquiry into the Darwin Waterfront Corporation* as amended, for tabling in the Assembly on Thursday 31 July 2025.

Question put and passed.

The Chair requested that copies of dissenting reports be forwarded to the Committee Secretary.

#### 8. CHAIR'S DRAFT REPORT – INQUIRY INTO THE HOWARD SPRINGS ACCOMMODATION VILLAGE – FLOOD EVACUATION COSTS

Mr Howe moved and Mr O'Gallagher seconded that:

The Committee adopt the Chair's draft report: *Inquiry into the Howard Springs Accommodation Village – Flood Evacuation Costs*, to be tabled out of session with the Speaker on Tuesday 15 July 2025 pursuant to S)200(4), for subsequent tabling in the Assembly on Tuesday 29 July 2025.

Question put and passed.

#### 9. PETITIONS


The Committee considered Petition Nos. 12, 13 and 14 and resolved as follows:

- Petition No. 12 – recommend to the Clerk that the petition be debated.
- Petition No. 13 – write to the Minister for Education and Training to ascertain enrolment numbers, current capacity of the school and any planned upgrades – for consideration at the Committee's next meeting.
- Petition No. 14 – write to the Minister for Logistics and Infrastructure for further information on the matters raised in the petition – for consideration at the Committee's next meeting.

#### 10. NEXT MEETING

Public Hearings: Darwin Ship Lift Project and Deliberative Meeting: 9.00 am – 4.00 pm, Wednesday 23 July 2025.

Meeting closed at 2.45 pm.



**Mr Clinton Howe, MLA**  
**Chair**