



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

13th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

Terms of Reference

Sessional Order 14

Public Accounts Committee

- (1) Standing Order 177 is suspended and the Public Accounts Committee appointed under that Standing Order shall continue with following terms of reference.
- (2) The Public Accounts Committee has the following duties:
 - (a) to examine the accounts of the receipts and expenditure of the Northern Territory and each statement and report tabled in the Legislative Assembly, pursuant to the *Financial Management Act* and the *Audit Act*
 - (b) to report to the Legislative Assembly with such comments as it thinks fit, any items or matters in or arising in connection with those accounts, statements or reports, or in connection with the receipt or disbursement of the moneys to which they relate, to which the committee is of the opinion that the attention of Parliament should be drawn
 - (c) to report to the Legislative Assembly any alteration which the committee thinks desirable in the form of the public accounts or in the method of keeping them or in the method of receipt, control, issue or payment of public moneys
 - (d) to inquire into and report to the Legislative Assembly on any question in connection with the public accounts of the Northern territory
 - (i) which is referred to it by a resolution of the Assembly or
 - (ii) which is referred to it by the Administrator or a Minister
 - (e) to inquire into and report to the Legislative Assembly on any matters within the executive authority of Ministers of the Territory to which the committee is of the opinion that the attention of the Assembly should be drawn
 - (f) the reports by statutory bodies tabled in the Assembly, including the recommendations of the Electoral Commissioner tabled under section 313 of the *Electoral Act*
 - (g) in relation to any instruments of a legislative or administrative character which the Assembly may disallow or disapprove:
 - (i) whether that instrument has sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals, including whether the instrument:
 - (A) makes rights and liberties, or obligations, dependent on administrative power only if the power is sufficiently defined and subject to appropriate review; and
 - (B) is consistent with principles of natural justice; and

- (C) allows the delegation of administrative power only in appropriate cases and to appropriate persons; and
 - (D) does not reverse the onus of proof in criminal proceedings without adequate justification; and
 - (E) confers powers to enter premises, and search for or seize documents or other property, only with a warrant issued by a judge or other judicial officer; and
 - (F) provides appropriate protection against self-incrimination; and
 - (G) does not adversely affect rights and liberties, or impose obligations, retrospectively; and
 - (H) does not confer immunity from proceeding or prosecution without adequate justification; and
 - (I) provides for the compulsory acquisition of property only with fair compensation; and
 - (J) has sufficient regard to Aboriginal tradition; and
 - (K) is unambiguous and drafted in a sufficiently clear and precise way.
- (ii) whether that instrument has sufficient regard to the institution of Parliament, including whether an instrument:
- (A) is within the authorising law which allows the instrument to be made: and
 - (B) is consistent with the policy objectives of the authorising law; and
 - (C) contains only matter appropriate to subordinate legislation; and
 - (D) amends statutory instruments only; and
 - (E) allows the subdelegation of a power delegated by an Act only in appropriate cases and to appropriate persons and if authorised by an Act.

- (3) The Committee will consist of six Members.
- (4) The Committee will elect a Government Member as Chair.
- (5) The Committee will provide an annual report of its activities to the Assembly.
- (6) This resolution does not change the Chair, membership or existing inquiries of the Committee.
- (7) Standing Order 176 is suspended and the Subordinate Legislation and Publications Committee is dissolved.
- (8) The Public Accounts Committee will have access to the records of the former Subordinate Legislation and Publications Committee and may continue the consideration of any matter commenced by that Committee.

Adopted 24 August 2017