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30.11.2000

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2000

REPORT NUMBER 36

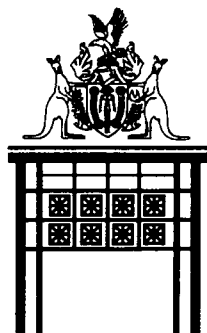
AUGUST 2000

Presented and
Ordered to be
printed by the
Legislative
Assembly of the
Northern Territory
on
30 November 2000

THIS ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report of the Public Accounts Committee is a document of accountability to the Legislative Assembly, and provides a statement to other interested stakeholders on the Committee's role, structure, responsibilities and activities.

The Public Accounts Committee is required to report annually in accordance with Section 21A of the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory. A summary of activities is also included within the Department of Legislative Assembly annual report for the same reporting year as required by Section 28 of the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

**ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2000**

REPORT NUMBER 36

AUGUST 2000

Members

Hon. Eric Poole, MLA
(Chairman)

Mr Johan Elferink, MLA

Mr Paul Henderson, MLA

Dr Richard Lim, MLA

Dr Peter Toyne, MLA

Secretariat

Terry Hanley
Secretary to the Committee

Roseline Vogeli
Research Assistant to the Secretary

Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory

Public Accounts Committee

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Public Accounts Committee

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GPO Box 3721
DARWIN NT 0801

The Hon. Terry McCarthy, MLA
Speaker
GPO Box 3721
DARWIN NT 0800

Dear Mr Speaker,

In accordance with the provisions of Section 21A of the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory, I have pleasure in submitting this Annual Report to you on the activities, staffing and operations of the Public Accounts Committee for the financial year ended 30 June 2000.

I advise that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the system of internal control provides reasonable assurance that:

- (a) proper records of all transactions affecting the Public Accounts Committee are kept by the Department of Legislative Assembly and that provisions of the *Financial Management Act*, Treasury Regulations and the Treasurer's Directions have been observed; and
- (b) procedures within the Department ensure a proper control over expenditure and public property of the Public Accounts Committee.

Having regard to the provisions of the aforementioned legislation, I am not aware of any indication of fraud, malpractice, major breach of legislation or delegation, major error in or omission from the accounts and records of the Department of Legislative Assembly, that apply to the Public Accounts Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Poole'.

ERIC POOLE, MLA
CHAIRMAN

22/11/00

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CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW

On behalf of the members of the Public Accounts Committee of the Eighth Assembly, I am pleased to present the Fourteenth Annual Report which incorporates activities for 1999-00.

Parliamentary Committees are an intricate tool used by Parliament to enquire into a range of specific issues and often Members are required to participate on a number of Committees in addition to their other parliamentary, electorate and community duties. The ever increase in information technology available to Committee Members will, by necessity, translate into an increase of Members' time resources.

Changes in membership to the Committee during the year saw the Chairman, Mr Lugg, and Mr Bailey (who resigned from the Assembly on 18 June 1999) replaced by the Hon. E H Poole and Mr Paul Henderson respectively. It has been to the Committee's advantage that membership has remained static during this reporting period.

At the Committee's deliberate meeting of 10 August 1999, the Hon. E H Poole was appointed Chairman.

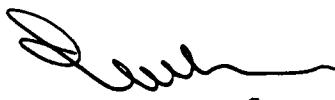
The Committee was able to finalise its inquiry on the reference it received from the Minister for Transport and Works, the Hon. Mr Barry Coulter to report upon the roles of various funding bodies in the development and maintenance of roads, airstrips and barge landings on Aboriginal communities and outstations in the Northern Territory.

The report was tabled in the Assembly on 19 August 1999.

The Committee acknowledges the work of the Northern Territory Auditor-General, Mr Iain Summers, over the last few years in changing the culture and remodelling the annual report process so that Government performance could be better presented. Members are acutely aware that as a result of Mr Summers' move to improve agency accountability, there has been a gradual shift where agencies now report on performance management by addressing corporate goals and key result areas in line with Budget Paper No. 2

I commend the contribution made by all Members of the Committee during the past year and look forward to a continued bi-partisan working relationship with Members in the future.

On behalf of all Members who comprised the Committee during the reporting period, I wish to acknowledge the continued support of the Secretariat.



ERIC POOLE MLA
CHAIRMAN

PROFILE OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Members of the Public Accounts Committee during the year were:

Mr Chris Lugg, MLA - Chairman

Appointed 26 November 1997
Elected Chairman 16 February 1999
Discharged 10 August 1999
Country Liberal Party
Member for Nelson. First elected 1997

Dr Richard Lim, MLA

Appointed 16 February 1999
Country Liberal Party
Member for Greatorex. First elected 1994.
Other Committee: Environment (Chairman)

Mr Peter Toyne, MLA

Appointed 9 October 1996
Australian Labor Party
Member for Stuart. First elected 1996
Shadow Minister for Education and Training; Aboriginal Affairs; Primary Industry, Communications and Advanced Technology; and Corporate and Information Services
Other Committee: Legal and Constitutional Affairs

Mr John Elferink, MLA

Appointed 14 October 1998
Country Liberal Party
Member for Macdonnell. First elected 1997
Deputy Chairman of Committees
Other Committees: Subordinate Legislation and Publications; Legal and Constitutional Affairs

Hon Eric Poole, MLA

Appointed 10 August 1999
Elected Chairman 10 August 1999
Country Liberal Party
Member for Araluen. First elected 19 April 1986
Deputy Chairman of Committees

Mr Paul Henderson, MLA

Appointed 10 August 1999

Australian Labor Party

Member for Wanguri. First elected 31 July 1999

Shadow Minister for Health, Family and Children's Services, Housing, Defence Support, and Work Health

CHARTER

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMITTEE

The Northern Territory Public Accounts Committee was first established by temporary Standing Order 21A of the Legislative Assembly on 18 June 1986. The Committee's status was altered, by way of motion of the Chief Minister on 23 August 1988, from a Sessional Committee on a trial basis only to a Standing Committee of the Parliament (refer to Appendix 1 for current appointments).

As a Committee of the Assembly, its authority is derived from the *Northern Territory (Self Government) Act* (of the Commonwealth) and the *Legislative Assembly (Powers and Privileges) Act* (of the Northern Territory).

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee is required to report to the Legislative Assembly, as per the Terms of Reference (Appendix 2), on an annual basis as well as providing specific reports from time to time to report its proceedings and evidence taken. (Refer Appendix 3 for previous reports of the Committee.)

ACTIVITIES 1999/00

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Committee is comprised of five (5) members, presently three (3) Government and two (2) Opposition members. At the commencement of the 1999/00 financial year, due to Mr Bailey resignation as the Member for Wanguri on 18 June 1999, the Committee membership stood at 4 members and was comprised of:

Mr Chris Lugg, MLA – Chairman
Dr Richard Lim, MLA
Mr John Elferink, MLA
Mr Peter Toyne, MLA

There were only two changes to the membership during the financial year and this is reflected throughout Appendix I.

At the conclusion of the 1999/00 year, the Committee comprised:

Hon Eric Poole, MLA – Chairman
Mr John Elferink, MLA
Mr Paul Henderson, MLA
Dr Richard Lim, MLA
Mr Peter Toyne, MLA

MEETINGS

The Committee met on ten occasions during the year. Details of these meetings are included on page 9.

	Meetings Attended	Meetings Held while Member
ELFERINK, John	8	10
HENDERSON, Paul	8	8
LIM, Richard	9	10
LUGG, Chris	2	2
POOLE, Eric	8	8
TOYNE, Peter	10	10

REPORTS TABLED

Annual Report Year Ended 30 June 1999 - Report No. 35

This report was tabled on 25 November 1999 and reviewed the activities of the Committee over the previous 12 months.

Inquiry into the Roles of Various Funding Bodies in the Development and Maintenance of Roads, Airstrips and Barge Landings on Aboriginal Communities and Outstations in the Northern Territory – Report No. 34

Although the Committee completed the inquiry on this reference which given by the Hon. Barry Coulter Minister for Transport and Works, during the previous reporting period, the final report was not tabled until 19 August 1999.

CONCLUSIONS

Conclusions of the Committee, acknowledgement of a dissenting report by Dr Peter Toyne MLA and recommendations flowing from the report were covered in depth in the Committee's annual report of 30 June 1999.

STRATEGIC REVIEW OF THE NT AUDITOR-GENERAL'S OFFICE

Under Part 5, sections 26 (1) and (2), a strategic review of the Auditor-General's Office is to be conducted not less than once every three years.

Under section 26 (5) the Minister is required to consult with the Committee on the Terms of Reference for the review of the Auditor-General's Office and the appointment of an appropriately qualified person to conduct the review.

To assist in the consultative process, the Committee met with the Auditor-General to discuss the format for the proposed Terms of Reference and subsequently held a briefing session with Mr Lee White, Assistant Auditor-General, from the Audit Office of New South Wales who was commissioned to undertake the triennial review

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND TRAINING

The Secretary accompanied the Clerk to a conference "Government and Business: Integrity and Accountability" held in Brisbane on 12 February 1999.

AUSTRALASIAN COUNCIL OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES (ACPAC)

Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees, Mid-Term Meeting, 11 February 2000, Canberra

Mr Terry Hanley, Secretary to the Committee, represented the Committee at the mid-term meeting.

Topics considered included:

Discussion papers on proposed topics for the 2001 Conference

Proposal for the Establishment of a Public Accounts Committee Forum within the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum

CERTIFIED PRACTISING ACCOUNTS (CPA) AUSTRALIA, NT BRANCH COUNCIL

Accounting At The Top 2000, 18-19 May 2000, Darwin

Mr Terry Hanley, Secretary to the Committee, represented the Committee at the mid-term meeting.

The conference theme was "Business Essentials for the New Millennium".

Topics discussed included:

- Railway Economics
- Strategic Alignment—Aligning Personal Commitment with Organisational Goals
- Trusts and Structuring Post Ralph
- Ecommerce Still the Future—What Impact the GST
- South East Asian Economics
- Status of Accrual Accounting Reporting and Budgeting
- Current Issues in Financial Accounting
- Accounting for Financial Instruments
- Success Planning (or subtitled) Clients plus CERTAIN Results but Minus the Lawyers
- Superannuation Update
- Auditing and Assurance Standards Update
- The Good, the Bad and the Ugly—Capital Gains Tax Post Ralph
- Leadership and Continuous Learning
- Fraud and Forensic Accounting for CPA's
- Fringe Benefits Tax and Salary Packaging
- Asset Revaluation for Government Trading Enterprises
- Developments in Retail Banking
- Loyalty and Random Acts of Lunch
- Spatial Business in the New Millennium
- Accounting Performance—Program Evaluation Issues and Techniques
- Scams and Swindlers—Investment Disasters and How to Avoid Them

OTHER ACTIVITIES

2000 Annual Report Awards

The Committee continues to provide support and sponsorship to the Northern Territory Public Sector Annual Report Awards co-sponsored by the Northern Territory Offices of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu (Chartered Accountants) and the Northern Territory Division of the Institute of Public Administration Australia.

Mr John Elferink, MLA represented the Committee in the adjudication process for the Awards. The Awards' finalists were announced on 1 June 2000 at a presentation ceremony held at the

Rydges Hotel, Darwin. The Chairman, the Hon. Eric Poole, MLA represented the Committee at this presentation.

A total of 27 entries were received for the year 2000 awards. Awards are chosen by a consensus decision of the Adjudication Panel with the overall winner being selected from among Award of Excellence winners only and decided by a majority vote.

One of the highlight of the awards was the introduction of a new Special Award for Best Communication of Corporate Governance, replacing a previous award for Best Report of Corporate Objectives.

Awards of Excellence and Awards of Merit were awarded to:

<u>Award of Excellence</u>	<u>Award of Merit</u>
Department of Sport and Recreation	Territory Housing
Territory Health Services	Department of Transport and Works

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS

No.	Date	Type of Meeting	Reference	Witness Organisation Represented
14	27.7.99	Deliberative		
15	29.7.99	Deliberative		
16	10.8.99	Deliberative	Election of Chairman	
17	17.8.99	Deliberative		
	17.8.99	Briefing	Year 2000 Compliance	Mr Owen Peake, Chief Executive Officer Mr John Stephenson, Head of Central Project Team <i>Office of Communications, Science and Advanced Technolog</i> Darwin
	17.8.99	Briefing	Financial Reporting	Mr Iain Summers, Auditor-General <i>Office of the Auditor-General</i> Darwin
18	16.9.99	Deliberative		
19	19.10.99	Deliberative		
20	23.11.99	Deliberative		
21	29.2.00	Deliberative		
	29.2.00	Briefing	Triennial Strategic Review of the Auditor-General's Office	Mr Iain Summers, Auditor-General <i>Office of the Auditor-General</i> Darwin
22	17.5.00	Deliberative		
	17.5.00	Briefing	Government Outsourcing of Information Technology	Hon. P.A. Adamson, MLA <i>Minister for Corporate and Information Science</i> Ms Sarah Butterworth, Chief Executive Officer <i>Department of Corporate and Information Services</i> Darwin
23	22.6.00	Deliberative		
	22.6.00	Briefing	Triennial Strategic Review of the Auditor-General's Office	Mr Lee White, Assistant Auditor-General <i>NSW Audit Office</i> Darwin
	22.6.00	Briefing	Status of Asset Recording and Stocktaking	Mr Ken Clarke, Under Treasurer Mrs Jennifer Prince, Deputy Under Treasurer Mrs Lorraine Hardy, Director Budget System Redevelopment <i>Northern Territory Treasury</i> Darwin

ADMINISTRATION AND STAFFING

Secretariat

Staffing for the Public Accounts Committee Secretariat is provided by the Department of the Legislative Assembly.

The Committee currently has a full-time secretary who is supported by a Research Assistant.

Staff as at 30 June 2000:

Secretary	-	Mr Terry Hanley
Research Assistant	-	Mrs Roseline Vogeli

Parliamentary Hansard staff provide an additional transcribing and editing service for the Public Accounts Committee transcripts.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2000

MEMBERS STATEMENT

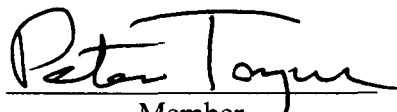
The accompanying financial statements have been based on proper accounts and records of the Department of Legislative Assembly and have been drawn up so as to present a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the Public Accounts Committee for the financial year ended 30 June 2000.

In our opinion, the prescribed requirements in respect of the establishment and keeping of accounts have been complied with in all material aspects, and we are not aware of any circumstances which would render the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

Dated at Darwin, Northern Territory, this 23rd day of November 2000.



Chairman
Public Accounts Committee



Member
Public Accounts Committee

1999/00 EXPENSES BY STANDARD CLASSIFICATION

Actual 1999	Category of Cost Standard Classification	Actual 2000
96 555	PERSONNEL COSTS	112 246
Nil	Fringe Benefits Tax	222
	Superannuation	6 419
Nil	Higher Duties	354
1 300	Leave Loading	674
	NT Allowance	675
81	Other Personnel Allowances	17
	Other Benefits	2 691
527	Overtime	250
6 659	Payroll Tax	7 035
Nil	Recreation Leave Fares	Nil
87 988	Salaries	93 909
40 982	OPERATIONAL COSTS	36 867
Nil	Property Maintenance	131
Nil	Advertising	Nil
Nil	Clothing	170
1 450	Communications	4 042
225	Consultants Fees	Nil
993	Consumables/General Expenses	366
1 470	Document Production	4 826
239	Entertainment/Hospitality	Nil
Nil	Freight	23
Nil	Furniture and Fittings	Nil
1 059	General Equipment and Machines	
15 045	Information Technology Services	10 718
376	Library Services	Nil
Nil	Membership and Subscriptions	500
650	Motor Vehicle Expenses	8 522
374	Office Requisites	39
14 755	Official Duty Fares	4 186
Nil	Other Plant and Equipment	349
1 421	Training and Study Expenses	1 058
2 925	Travelling Allowance	1 935
137 537	TOTAL EXPENSES	149 113

This is not an audited statement.

EMPLOYEES ENTITLEMENTS OUTSTANDING
as at 30 June 2000

1999	Entitlement	2000
2 639	Leave Loading	693
22 462	Recreation Leave	18 743
23 503	Long Service Leave	34 752
48 604	TOTAL	54 188

This is not an audited statement.

BASIS OF CALCULATIONS

1. Leave Loading
Entitlements are the value of actual leave loading.
2. Recreation Leave
Entitlements are calculated using employee's nominal designation and salary rate for days of credited leave.
3. Long Service Leave
Entitlements are calculated using employee's nominal designation and salary rate for years of service.

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the reporting period ended 30 June 2000**

1. Accounting Entity

The Public Accounts Committee is a sub program of administration of the Department of the Legislative Assembly. The Agency is wholly funded by annual Parliamentary appropriations and maintains an on-going dependency on these appropriations.

2. Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of accounting

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with Part 2, Section 5 of the Treasurer's Directions. The accounting records have been kept on a cash basis and reflect actual cash outflows during the financial year.

All amounts in the Committee's financial report are rounded to the nearest dollar and are expressed in Australian currency.

(b) Appropriation

Parliamentary appropriations have not been recognised as revenue during the reporting period.

(c) Authority

Payments have been made under the Authority of the *Appropriation Act* and the Authority of the Treasurer's Warrant.

(d) Funding

Funds for Committee activities are provided by the Department of Legislative Assembly. Provision of salary and administrative activities are appropriated by the Parliament to the Assembly Services (Activity), Committees (Program) within the budget appropriated to the Department of Legislative Assembly. The Public Accounts Committee was one of twelve Standing, Sessional and Select Committees that received funds from this program. A notional budget is provided each year for these committees. The notional budget for the Public Accounts Committee was \$174 000 in 1999/00 (\$171 200 in 1998/99).

(e) Income Tax

The Public Accounts Committee as part of the administration of the Department of Legislative Assembly is a public authority within the meaning of Section 23(d) of the *Income Assessment Act* and its income is exempt under the provisions of that Act. However, the Department of Legislative Assembly and the Public Accounts Committee is subject to Fringe Benefits Tax.

- (f) The Committee does not operate any Trust Accounts.
- (g) There were no material Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable or authorised Write-offs and Waivers as at 30 June 1998.
- (h) Committee Members' Remuneration

The Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee receives an allowance for services as presiding officer of the Committee. In accordance with Remuneration Tribunal Determination 1/98, effective 29 October 1998, this allowance was set at \$15 108 per annum.

This allowance is met directly from the Department of Legislative Assembly budget. Other sitting members do not receive an allowance.

- (i) Services received at no cost from the Northern Territory Government/ Department of Legislative Assembly

The Committee as a sub program of the Department of Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory Government received the following services which have not been costed to the Committee:

- Rent of premises
- Electricity
- Briefings provided by employees of the Northern Territory Government
- Superannuation contributions
- Members' salary for sitting days
- Superannuation contributions in respect of employees' contributions
- Office cleaning
- Office security
- Payroll services and cheque production services provided by NT Treasury
- Accounting fees for services provided by Department of Legislative Assembly

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1**MEMBERSHIP OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

MEMBER	PERIOD	STATUS
Adamson, Mr P F	28 Nov 1996 - 12 Aug 1987	Member
Bailey, Mr J D	4 Dec 1990 - 17 May 1994 27 Jun 1994 - 12 Aug 1997 26 Nov 1997 - 18 June 1999	Member Member Member
Braham, Mrs L M	27 Jun 1994 - 28 Nov 1996 28 Nov 1996 - 12 Aug 1987	Member Chairman
Burke, Mr D.G.	23 Aug 1994 - 15 Aug 1995	Member
Dondas, Mr N M	23 Aug 1988 - 10 Oct 1989	Member
Dunham, Mr S	26 Nov 1997 - 16 Feb 1999	Chairman
Collins, Mr R L	20 Aug 1986 - 16 Feb 1987	Member
Ede, Mr B R	28 Apr 1987 - 23 Aug 1988 23 Aug 1988 - 5 Oct 1990 27 Jun 1994 - 23 Aug 1996	Member Member Member
Elferink, Mr J	14 Oct 1998 - *	Member
Henderson, Mr P	10 Aug. 1999 - *	Member
Hatton, Mr S	26 Nov 1997 - 14 Oct 1998	Member
Harris, Mr T	7 May 1987 - 17 May 1988	Member
Leo, Mr D M	18 Jun 1986 - 16 Feb 1987 28 Apr 1987 - 23 Aug 1988 23 Aug 1988 - 5 Oct 1990	Member Member Member
Lim, Dr R S H	28 Nov 1996 - 12 Aug 1997 16 Feb 1999 - *	Member
Lugg, Mr C	26 Nov 1997 - 15 Feb 1999 16 Feb 1999 - 10 Aug 1999	Member Chairman
McCarthy, Mr T R	28 Apr 1987 - 7 May 1987 24 Aug 1993 - 17 May 1994	Member Member
Mitchell, Mr P.A.	15 Aug 1995 - 28 Nov 1996	Member

Public Accounts Committee

MEMBER MEMBER	PERIOD PERIOD	STATUS STATUS
Palmer, Mr M J	18 Jun 1986 - 16 Feb 1997	Member
	28 Apr 1987 - 30 April 1987	Member
	30 April 1987 - 23 August 1988	Chairman
	23 Aug 1988 - 5 Oct 1990	Chairman
	4 Dec 1990 - 17 May 1994	Chairman
	27 June 1994 - 23 August 1994	Chairman
Parish, Mr K A	25 Feb 1992 - 17 May 1994	Member
Perron, Mr M B	18 Jun 1986 - 16 Feb 1987	Chairman
Poole, Mr E H	28 Apr 1987 - 17 May 1988	Member
	10 Oct 1989 - 5 Oct 1990	Member
	4 Dec 1990 - 4 Mar 1993	Member
	10 Aug 1999 - *	Chairman
Reed, Mr M A	17 May 1988 - 16 Aug 1988	Member
Setter, Mr R A	17 May 1988 - 23 Aug 1988	Member
	23 Aug 1988 - 5 Oct 1990	Member
	4 Dec 1990 - 17 May 1994	Member
	27 June 1994 - 25 Aug 1994	Member
	25 Aug 1995 - 28 Nov 1996	Chairman
Smith, Mr T E	18 Jun 1986 - 20 Aug 1986	Member
Stirling, Mr S J	4 Dec 1990 - 25 Feb 1992	Member
Toyne, Mr P H	28 November 1996 - 12 Aug 1997	Member
	26 Nov 1997 - *	
Tuxworth, Mr I L	18 Jun 1986 - 16 Feb 1987	Member
Vale, Mr R W S	4 Mar 1993 - 24 Aug 1993	Member

* Member for financial year 30 June 2000 - 30 June 2001

NOTES:

The Public Accounts Committee was established by provisional Standing Order 21A to operate on a trial basis as a Sessional Order on 18 June 1986.

Pursuant to a resolution of the Assembly on 23 August 1988, the status of the Public Accounts changed from a Provisional Standing Committee to a Standing Committee.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

STANDING ORDER 21A PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

21A¹ ²PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

- (1) A Standing Committee of Public Accounts to consist of five members shall be appointed at the commencement of each Assembly.
- (2) The Duties of the committee shall be –
 - (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; and
 - (e) to examine the reports of the Auditor-General tabled in the Legislative Assembly with the accounts of an Agency of the Northern Territory, including any documents annexed or appended to those reports, pursuant to the *Audit Act*.
- (3) The committee shall examine only those accounts of receipts and expenditure of the Northern Territory and reports of the Auditor-General for financial years commencing after 30 June 1986 provided that this shall not prevent the consideration by the committee of matters included in reports of the Auditor-General for the year ending 30 June 1986 which have or may have a continuing effect on the form of the public accounts, the method of receipt, control, issue or payment of public moneys
- (4) Prior to determining whether to undertake an inquiry into any matter which may have arisen in connection with the public accounts of the Northern Territory, pursuant to paragraphs (2)(a) and (e), with the concurrence of the committee, the Chairman is empowered to write to the Chief Executive Officer of the relevant agency for a report on the matter.

¹ SO21A Standing Order agreed to by resolution 23 August 1988.

² SO21A Standing Orders Committee Report No. 2, Eighth Assembly, adopted on 20 August 1998. (Minutes page 210.) Standing Order 21A(2)(a) and (e) amended.

- (5) The Committee shall take care not to inquire into any matters which are being examined by a Select Committee of the Assembly especially appointed to inquire into such matters and any question arising in connection therewith may be referred to the Assembly for determination.
- (6) The committee shall elect a Government Member as Chairman.
- (7) The Chairman of the Committee may, from time to time, appoint a member of the committee to be the Deputy Chairman of the Committee and the Member so appointed shall act as Chairman of the Committee at any time when there is no Chairman or when the Chairman is not present at a meeting of the committee.
- (8) In the event of an equality of voting, the Chairman, or the Deputy Chairman when acting as Chairman, shall have a casting vote.
- (9) The committee shall have power to appoint sub-committees and to refer to any such sub-committee any matter which the Committee is empowered to examine.
- (10) Three Members of the committee shall constitute a quorum of the committee and two Members of a sub-committee shall constitute a quorum of the sub-committee.
- (11) The committee or any sub-committee shall have power to send for persons, papers and records, to adjourn from place to place, to meet and transact business in public or private session and to sit during any adjournment of the Assembly.
- (12) The committee shall be empowered to print from day to day such papers and evidence as may be ordered by it and, unless otherwise ordered by the committee, a daily *Hansard* shall be published of such proceedings of the committee as take place in public.
- (13) The committee may proceed to the dispatch of business notwithstanding that all Members have not been appointed and notwithstanding any vacancy.
- (14) The committee shall report annually and shall have leave to report from time to time and to report its proceedings and evidence taken; and any Member of the committee shall have power to add a protest or dissent to any Report.
- (15) Unless otherwise ordered by the committee, all documents received by the committee during its inquiry shall remain in the custody of the Assembly: provided that, on the application of a department or person, any document, if not likely to be further required, may, in the Speaker's discretion, be returned to the department or person from whom it was obtained.
- (16) The committee shall be provided with all necessary staff, facilities and resources and shall be empowered, with the approval of the Speaker, to appoint persons with specialist knowledge for the purposes of the committee.

APPENDIX 3**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE REPORTS**

No.	Title	Date Tabled
1	Annual Report - Year Ended 30 June 1987	September 1987
2	Report on the Actual & Contingent Liabilities of the Northern Territory Government	November 1987
3	Report on the Auditor-General's Annual Reports 1985/86	May 1988
4	Report on Accelerated Year End Spending	May 1988
5	Annual Report - Year Ended 30 June 1988	August 1988
6	Report on Public Administration Recurrent Expenditure (Waste Watch)	October 1988
7	Report on the Auditor-General's Annual Reports 1986/87	May 1989
8	Report on Aero-Medical Contract	May 1989
9	Annual Report - Year Ended 30 June 1989	November 1989
10	Second Report on the Actual and Contingent Liabilities of the Northern Territory Government	February 1991
11	Annual Report - Year Ended 30 June 1990	February 1991
12	Report on the Auditor-General's Annual Reports 1987/88 and 1988/89	May 1991
13	Annual Report - Year Ended 30 June 1991	October 1991
14	Report on 1990 Election Costs	November 1991
15	Report on Biennial Conference of PAC - Darwin May 1991	November 1991
16	Report on the Auditor-General's Report 1989/90	May 1992
17	Annual Report Year Ended 30 June 1992	October 1992
18	Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees - Mid Term Meeting held Monday 20th July 1992	November 1992
19	Report on the Purchase, Operation and Sale of Dalway Pty Ltd	March 1993
20	Annual Report Year Ended 30 June 1993	August 1993

Public Accounts Committee

No.	Title	Date Tabled
21	Report on the Auditor-General's Annual Reports 1990-91 and 1991-92	April 1994
22	Annual Report Year Ended 30 June 1994	October 1994
23	Annual Report Year Ended 30 June 1995	October 1995
24	Report on the Auditor-General's Annual Report 1992-93	October 1995
25	Second Report on the Auditor-General's Annual Report 1992-93	November 1995
26	Internal Audit in the Northern Territory Public Sector	November 1995
27	Provision of School Education Services for Remote Aboriginal Communities in the Northern Territory	August 1996
28	Provision of Health Services to Aboriginal Communities in the Northern Territory	November 1996
29	Annual Report Year Ended 30 June 1996	November 1996
30	Report on the Auditor-General's Annual and Mid Year Reports 1993/94 and 1994/95	February 1997
31	Annual Report Year Ended 30 June 1997	February 1998
32	Annual Report Year Ended 30 June 1998	December 1998
33	Report on the Auditor-General's Mid Year and End of Financial Year Reports 1995-96 and 1998 - Inquiry into Fees, Fines and Outstanding Debts	February 1999
34	Inquiry into the Roles of Various Funding Bodies in the Development and Maintenance of Roads, Airstrips and Barge Landings on Aboriginal Communities and Outstations in the Northern Territory	August 1999
35	Annual Report Year Ended 30 June 1999	November 1999

**EXTRACTS FROM THE RECORDS OF THE LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY**

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 14 October 1998

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE - CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP - MOTION
AGREED TO:**

The Leader of Government Business (Mr Coulter) moved - That Mr Hatton be discharged from service on the Public Accounts Committee and Mr Elferink be appointed to the Committee in his stead. (Paper 688)

Question - put and passed.

Tuesday 10 August 1999

**ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES—VARIATION OF MEMBERSHIP—MOTION
AGREED TO:**

The Leader of Government Business (Mr Palmer), by leave, moved - That -

...

(1) the Member for Nelson (Mr Lugg) be discharged from further attendance on the Standing Committee on Public Accounts ...;

(3) Members be appointed to Assembly Committees as follows:

...

Standing Committee on Public Accounts -
Mr Henderson and Mr Poole.