LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Public Accounts Committee

Associated Minutes of Proceedings

Inquiry into the Acacia Digital Patient Record System

August 2026

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 7

12.10 pm, Wednesday 19 March 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 Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

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1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mrs Zio moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

> The Minutes of Meeting No. 6 of 12 February 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. BRIEFING FROM THE AUDITOR- GENERAL AND SIGNING OF MOU

- The Auditor-General briefed the Committee on the 2024 Strategic Review of the NT Auditor-General's Office.
- The Auditor-General and the Chair of the Committee signed the Memorandum of Understanding.

The Auditor-General withdrew from the meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- In relation to a reporting mechanism regarding Action on Petitions, Mr Howe moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

> Where the Committee resolves not to recommend a petition for debate, the Committee will develop a statement that the Chair can provide to the media and other interested parties regarding the status of the petition should any inquiries be received.

Question put and passed.

- In relation to the Committee's inquiry into Costs Associated with the 2023 Flood Evacuation to the Howard Springs Accommodation Centre, it was agreed that there was little benefit in holding a public hearing given that the former Commissioner of Police and former Chief Executive of the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet were no longer available. To facilitate report drafting Mr O'Gallagher moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

> The Committee Secretary contact witnesses that appeared before the Committee at its 10 December 2024 private briefing to seek permission to use the information provided for reporting purposes and ascertain whether there is any part of their evidence that should not be referred to or quoted in the Committee's report.

Question put and passed.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**
Noted.

5. **INQUIRY REFERRAL – NT GOVERNMENT ROAD WORKS IN THE ALICE SPRINGS CBD**
Mr Howe moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

> In light of the advice from the Chief Executive Officer: Department of Logistics and Infrastructure, and not wishing to jeopardise or diminish the contractual rights and obligations of contracting parties, the Committee suspend its inquiry into NT Government Road Works in the Alice Springs CBD until such time as these contracts have been finalised and that the Committee notify the Speaker accordingly.

Question put and passed.

6. **DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH AUDITOR-GENERAL**
Mr Howe moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

> The Committee enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Auditor-General as set out in the draft MOU, and invite the Auditor-General to attend the committee's next meeting to sign the MOU.

Question put and passed.

7. **NEW INQUIRY REFERRAL – ACACIA DIGITAL PATIENT RECORD SYSTEM**
Mr Howe moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

> The Committee agree to the proposed inquiry plan as set out in the briefing note.

Question put and passed.

The Committee further agreed that Member for Blain, Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, be invited to participate in public hearings on this matter given his technical expertise.

8. **PETITIONS**
The committee considered petition No. 8 regarding Port Keats road upgrade and requested the committee secretariat to check Hansard to ascertain whether the Minister's response to the petition when it was introduced included an indicative timeframe for the road works.

9. **NEXT MEETING**
12.00 pm, Wednesday 26 March 2025

Meeting closed at 1.33 pm

Mr Clinton Howe, MLA
Chair

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 9

12.00 pm, Wednesday 14 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 Katie Helme, Committee Secretary Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

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1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Justine Davis moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 8 of 26 March 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

The Committee Secretary noted Gabrielle Brown has advised that she has no issues with the Committee referring to and quoting from the transcript of the private briefing on Costs Associated with the 2023 Flood Evacuation to the Howard Springs Accommodation Village for the purposes of report drafting.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted.

4. INQUIRY REFERRAL – ACACIA DIGITAL PATIENT RECORD SYSTEM

Mr Howe moved and Mr O'Gallagher seconded that:

1. The Committee authorise publication of submissions received, with the exception of submission nos. 2 and 5, redacting personal information in all submissions such as signatures, personal addresses and phone numbers prior to publication.
2. Pursuant to Standing Order 194(3)(b) the Committee authorise copies of submissions to be forwarded to the Member for Blain, Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, and that he be invited to participate in public hearings on this matter given his technical expertise.

Questions put and passed.

It was further agreed that Members determine preferred date in early July for public hearings on the Acacia Digital Patient Record System for consideration at the next meeting.

5. ACTION ON STRATEGIC REVIEW OF NT AUDITOR-GENERAL'S OFFICE

Justine Davis moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

The Committee request the committee secretariat to:

a) undertake a comparison of audit mandates across Australasian jurisdictions; and

b) seek a briefing from the Australasian Council of Auditors General regarding the Independence of Auditors General.

Question put and passed.

6. INQUIRY REFERRAL – DARWIN SHIP LIFT PROJECT

Mr Howe moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

1. The Committee write to the Speaker advising her of receipt of the inquiry referral from the Treasurer, Mr Bill Yan MLA, regarding the Darwin Ship Lift Project and requesting that she advise the Legislative Assembly of the inquiry referral when the Assembly next meets.

2. Committee members provide the secretariat with the names of any other organisations or individuals they consider should be invited to make a submission for consideration at the Committee's next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 21 May 2025.

Questions put and passed.

It was further agreed that Members determine preferred date in early July for a site visit to the Darwin Port for consideration at the next meeting.

7. PETITIONS

Petition No. 9

Mr Howe moved and Mr O'Gallagher seconded that:

The Committee not recommend Petition No. 9 for debate in the Assembly.

3 for, 2 against.

Question put and passed.

Petition No. 10

It was agreed that the Chair would write to the responsible Minister and request information on the Berrimah Road duplication project for consideration at the Committee's next meeting.

8. NEXT MEETING

12.00 pm, Wednesday 21 May 2025.

Meeting closed at 12.32 pm.

Mr Clinton Howe, MLA
Chair

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 21

1.30 pm, Tuesday 28 October 2025
Litchfield Room

Present:	Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay
Apologies:	Mr Brian O'Gallagher, Member for Karama
Secretariat:	Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary Mr Will Dreyer, Senior Research Officer

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1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Justine Davis moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

> The Minutes of Meeting No. 20 of 15 October 2025 be confirmed

Question put and passed.

2. CONSIDERATION OF CHAIR'S DRAFT REPORT: INQUIRY INTO THE INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT PROVISIONAL SUM

Justine Davis moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

> Recommendation 2 be amended to read: The Committee recommends that the Government, specifically the Contractor Compliance Unit, strengthen its internal systems to support Aboriginal Territorians to have greater participation in the Northern Territory's workforce and procurement outcomes.

Question put and passed.

Mrs Zio moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

> The Committee adopt the Chair's draft report: *Inquiry into the Indigenous Employment Provisional Sum,* as amended, to be tabled out of session with Speaker on Thursday 30 October 2025 pursuant to Standing Order 200(4), for subsequent tabling in the Assembly on Tuesday 25 November 2025.

Question put and passed.

3. CONSIDERATION OF CHAIR'S DRAFT REPORT: DARWIN SHIP LIFT PROJECT

Justine Davis moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

> Recommendation 1 be amended to read: The Committee recommends that, following consideration of the evidence received and contractual obligations, the Government continues with and completes construction of the Darwin Ship Lift and Marine Industries Complex.

Question put and passed.

Mrs Zio moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

> Recommendation 4 be amended to read: that the Government coordinates the implementation of initiatives to address workforce skills shortages that may impact on the capacity of the Ship Lift facility to meet anticipated service demands.

Question put and passed.

Mrs Zio moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

> The Committee adopt the Chair's draft report: *Inquiry into the Darwin Ship Lift Project*, as amended, to be tabled out of session with Speaker on Thursday 30 October 2025 pursuant to Standing Order 200(4), for subsequent tabling in the Assembly on Tuesday 25 November 2025.

Question put and passed.

4. INQUIRY REFERRAL: ACACIA DIGITAL PATIENT RECORD SYSTEM

It was agreed that the Committee Secretary would provide a briefing note regarding options for progressing the inquiry for consideration at the Committee's next meeting scheduled for 26 November 2025.

5. CONSIDERATION OF PETITION NO 18

Mr Howe moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

> The Committee not refer Petition No. 18 for debate given that the Anti-Discrimination Amendment Bill 2025 has been passed into law.

Question put and passed.

6. NEXT MEETING

12.00 pm Wednesday 26 November 2025

Meeting closed at 2.24 pm.

Mr Clinton Howe, MLA
Chair

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 22

12.30 pm, Wednesday 26 November 2025

Litchfield Room

Present:	Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston Mr Brian O'Gallagher, Member for Karama Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay
Secretariat:	Julia Knight, Committee Secretary Dr Will Dreyer, Senior Research Officer

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1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Justine Davis moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

> The Minutes of Meeting No. 21 of 28 October 2025 be confirmed

Question put and passed.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted

3. INQUIRY REFERRAL: ACACIA DIGITAL PATIENT RECORD SYSTEM

Justine Davis moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

> The Committee endorse the proposed inquiry plan.

Question put and passed.

4. INQUIRY REFERAL – REGULATION OF THE GAS INDUSTRY

The Committee considered

Mr Howe moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

> The Committee write to the Member for Nightcliff to advise that it considers it would not be appropriate to commence an inquiry into regulation of the gas industry given the investigations currently underway by the NT EPA regarding potential breaches of the Environment Protection Licence or any other relevant legislation relating to the Ichthys LNG facility, and the correspondence from the Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment to the Hon Chris Bowen MP, Minister for Climate Change and Energy, regarding fugitive methane emissions from the Santos LNG facility.

Question put and passed.

5. NEXT MEETING

12.00 pm Wednesday 4 February 2026

Meeting closed at 12.45 pm.

Mr Clinton Howe, MLA
Chair

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 23

12.00 pm, Wednesday 4 February 2026

Litchfield Room

Present:	Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston Mr Brian O'Gallagher, Member for Karama Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay
Secretariat:	Candice Maclean, Executive Director Parliamentary Support Julia Knight, Committee Secretary Dr Will Dreyer, Senior Research Officer

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1. BRIEFING FROM MEMBER FOR BLAIN

The Member for Blain, Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, briefed the Committee on how he might be able to assist with its inquiry into the Acacia Digital Patient Record System.

The Member for Blain withdrew from the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr O'Gallagher moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

> The Minutes of Meeting No. 22 of 26 November 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted

Mr Howe moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

> The Committee Secretary prepare a jurisdictional report regarding the Committee's work over the past 12 months for consideration by the Committee and submission to the ACPAC Biennial Conference secretariat.

Question put and passed.

4. INQUIRY REFERRAL: ACACIA DIGITAL PATIENT RECORD SYSTEM

Mr O'Gallager moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

> The Committee authorise publication of submissions nos. 7 – 11 and 14, redacting personal information in all submissions such as signatures, email addresses and phone numbers prior to publication.

Question put and passed.

Mr Howe moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

> Pursuant to Standing Order 190(1), the Committee write to the Chief Executive Officers of the Department of Health and the Department of Corporate and Digital Development to request copies of documents relating to the Acacia Digital Patient Record System identified in evidence received by the Committee.

Question put and passed.

The Committee further agreed to invite representatives from the Department of Health and the Department of Corporate and Digital Development to appear before the Committee at a public briefing on 17 February 2026.

5. CONSIDERATION OF PETITION NO. 19

Justine Davis moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

> The Committee advise the Clerk that it recommended that the Assembly debate Petition No. 19 regarding a review of the safety conditions for pedestrians and cyclists on Bagot Road.

Question put and passed. Mr O'Gallagher registered his dissent from the decision.

6. NEXT MEETING

Public Briefing and Deliberative Meeting: 9.00 am Tuesday 17 February 2026

Public Hearing: 9.00 am Tuesday 3 March 2026

Meeting closed at 1.00 pm.

Mr Clinton Howe, MLA
Chair

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 24

9.00 am, Tuesday 17 February 2026
Litchfield Room

Present:	Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay
Substitution:	Mr Andrew Mackay MLA, Member for Goyder for Mr Brian O'Gallagher MLA, Member for Karama
Participating:	Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, Member for Blain
Secretariat:	Julia Knight, Committee Secretary Dr Will Dreyer, Senior Research Officer

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1. PUBLIC BRIEFING: INQUIRY INTO ACACIA DIGITAL PATIENT RECORD SYSTEM

The Committee heard from the following witnesses:

Department of Health
Chris Hosking PSM: Chief Executive Officer
Kim Charles: Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Prof Nadarajah Kangaharan: Acacia Clinical Sponsor and Co-Director of Medicine RDH
Angela Brannelly: Regional Executive Director – Top End Regional Health Service
Dr Andrew Bell: Chief Clinical Information Officer

Questions Taken on Notice

1. Can you please clarify for the committee the risks and ongoing costs associated with maintaining the five different systems that we have replaced?
2. Can you please provide a breakdown of the budget spent per functional group that has been achieved?
3. Can the Department of Health please provide an understanding of the $24m in internal reprioritisations of the NT Health's budget in October 2023 – what projects or areas was that money reallocated from?

The witnesses withdrew.

Department of Corporate and Digital Development
Catherine Weber PSM: Chief Executive Officer
Greg Connors: Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Digital Services
Grace Johnson: Program Director, Core Clinical Systems Renewal Program

Questions Taken on Notice

1. Could you please provide information on how many patient files were affected by the data breach?
2. Can you give me an idea of the results from your staff satisfaction surveys over the last three or four years please? Specific to the team operating around the Acacia project, if we could get some information from the department around the completion numbers and the results of those staff satisfaction surveys, please.

3. Is there any way to get an indication, without breaching commercial-in-confidence, of how much of the spend today is on contractors that the NT Government has managed versus the InterSystems spend? I understand that may not be down to the last cent because there could be contractual matters there, but some sort of indication?
4. Can you give the committee an indication of the contractors not required anymore on Acacia how many were redeployed to other projects versus were not required at all. If we can go 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021?
5. How many Department of Corporate and Digital Development, or its precursor, employees have gone on to become contractors who work on the Acacia project?
6. With relation to the money that has been spent on contractors, what percentage of that has gone to local workforce versus interstate or international workforce?
7. In 2023 there was a reprioritisation of $6m from Acacia to SerPro. Can we get some information about why that occurred and how that was approved?

The witnesses withdrew.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr Howe moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

> The Minutes of Meeting No. 23 of 4 February 2026 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted

Mr Howe moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

> The Committee accept late submission no. 15 noting that the author has requested that it remain confidential and not for publication.

Question put and passed.

4. INQUIRY REFERRAL: ACACIA DIGITAL PATIENT RECORD SYSTEM

Justine Davis moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

1. The Committee invite the authors of submission nos. 2, 12 and 15 to appear before the Committee at a private hearing on Tuesday 3 March 2026.
2. The Committee invite AMANT, Andre Snoxall, Kara Joyce, Rod McDonald and the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation to appear before the Committee at a public hearing on Tuesday 3 March 2026.
3. The Committee invite representatives from the Department of Health and the Department of Corporate and Digital Development to appear before the Committee at a public hearing on Wednesday 25 March 2026.

Questions put and passed.

5. NEXT MEETING

Private Hearing, Public Hearing and Deliberative Meeting: 9.00 am Tuesday 3 March 2026

Meeting closed at 1.30 pm.

Mr Clinton Howe, MLA
Chair

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 25
9.00 am, Tuesday 3 March2026
Litchfield Room

Present:	Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston Mr Brian O'Gallagher MLA, Member for Karama
Apologies:	Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay
Participating:	Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, Member for Blain
Secretariat:	Candice Maclean, Executive Director Parliamentary Support Julia Knight, Committee Secretary Dr Will Dreyer, Senior Research Officer Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

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1. **PRIVATE HEARING: INQUIRY INTO ACACIA DIGITAL PATIENT RECORD SYSTEM**
The Committee heard from the following witnesses:

[redacted]

The witnesses withdrew.

[redacted]

The witness withdrew.

[redacted]

The witnesses withdrew

[redacted]

The witness withdrew.

2. **PUBLIC HEARINGS: INQUIRY INTO THE ACACIA DIGITAL PATIENT RECORD SYSTEM**
The Committee heard from the following witnesses:

Australian Medical Association NT
Dr John Zorbas: President

The witness withdrew.

Adelphos AI
André Snoxall: Chief Information Officer

The witness withdrew.

Private Citizen
Rod McDonald: Business Analyst

The witness withdrew.

Private Citizens
Kara Joyce: ex Core Clinical System Renewal Program Project Manager, Business Analyst and Clinical Informatics Officer, Department of Corporate and Digital Development
Bernard Yehuda: ex Lead Business Analyst, Core Clinical System Renewal Program, Department of Corporate and Digital Development.

The witnesses withdrew.

3. NEXT MEETING
Deliberative Meeting: 12.00 pm, Wednesday 11 March 2026

Meeting closed at 3.45 pm.

Mr Clinton Howe, MLA
Chair

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 26
12.00 pm, Wednesday 11 March 2026
Litchfield Room

Present:	Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston Mr Brian O'Gallagher MLA, Member for Karama Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay
Secretariat:	Candice Maclean, Executive Director Parliamentary Support Julia Knight, Committee Secretary Dr Will Dreyer, Senior Research Officer

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1. BRIEFING FROM THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

The Auditor-General, Mr Jara Dean, briefed the Committee on the following:

- Report Nos. 4, 5, and 6 of 2025 tabled in the November sittings
- ACAG report, *Independence of the Australasian Auditors General Report 2025*
- Auditor-General's work plan for the year ahead.

The Auditor-General withdrew from the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Justine Davis moved and Mr O'Gallagher seconded that:

> The minutes of meeting No. 24 of 17 February 2026 and meeting No. 25 of 3 March 2026 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted.

4. INQUIRY REFERRAL: ACACIA DIGITAL PATIENT RECORD SYSTEM

Mr Howe moved and Mr O'Gallagher seconded that:

> The Committee authorise publication of supplementary submission No. 16 from Mr Rod McDonald redacting personal information such as signature, email address and phone number prior to publication.

Question put and passed.

Mr Howe moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

> The Committee accept the additional information provided by [redacted] following [redacted] appearance before the Committee at its private hearing of 3 March 2026.

Question put and passed.

Mr Howe moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

> The Committee not accept any further submissions to its inquiry into the Acacia Digital Patient Record System.

Question put and passed.

Mr Howe moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

> The Committee redact [redacted] name from the public hearing transcript of 3 March 2026 prior to its publication on the Committee's website, and provide [redacted] with a Right of Reply and invite [redacted] to appear before the Committee at a private hearing at 12.00 pm on Wednesday 18 March 2026.

Question put and passed.

Mr Howe moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

> The Committee forward the proposed questions to the Chief Executive Officers for the Department of Health and the Department of Corporate and Digital Development for a written response to be received by Monday 13 April 2026.

Question put and passed.

The Chair further requested that members provide any additional questions to the Committee Secretary by close of business Friday 13 March.

5. NEXT MEETING

Deliberative Meeting: 12.00 pm Wednesday 18 March 2026

Meeting closed at 1.10 pm.

Mr Clinton Howe, MLA
Chair

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 27

12.00 pm, Wednesday 18 March 2026
Litchfield Room

Present:	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 MLA, Member for Karama
Substitution:	Mr Andrew Mackay MLA, Member for Goyder for Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale
Secretariat:	Candice Maclean, Executive Director Parliamentary Support Julia Knight, Committee Secretary Dr Will Dreyer, Senior Research Officer

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1. **RIGHT OF REPLY**
The Committee heard from [redacted] regarding adverse comments made [redacted] at the public hearing into the Acacia Digital Patient Record System on 3 March 2026.

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**
Mr Brown moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

   The minutes of meeting No. 26 of 11 March 2026 be confirmed.

   Question put and passed.

3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**
Justine Davis moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

   The Committee authorise publication of the proposed inquiry update on the Acacia Digital Patient Record System inquiry website.

   Question put and passed.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**
Noted.

5. **INQUIRY REFERRAL: ACACIA DIGITAL PATIENT RECORD SYSTEM**
Mr Brown moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

   The Committee authorise publication of the Answers to Questions Taken on Notice from the Department of Health.

   Question put and passed.

   It was further agreed that the Committee Secretary seek clarification from the Department of Corporate and Digital Development regarding the confidentiality of Answers to Questions taken on notice Nos 2 and 3.

6. **AUSTRALASIAN COUNCIL OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES CONFERENCE**
Mr O'Gallagher moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

The Committee adopt the draft *Committee Activity Report* to be submitted to the secretariat of the Tasmanian Public Accounts Committee by Friday 10 April 2026.

Question put and passed.

7. PETITIONS

Mr O'Gallagher moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

1. The Committee write to the Minister for Police regarding Petition No. 20 and request a response to the matters raised in the petition.
2. The Committee write to the Clerk to recommend that the Assembly debate Petition Nos 21 and 22 regarding protecting the wellbeing of all residents by addressing problem tenancies in the NT.

Questions put and passed.

8. NEXT MEETING

Deliberative Meeting: 12.00 pm Wednesday 6 May 2026

Meeting closed at 12.32 pm.

Mrs Laurie Zio, MLA
Deputy Chair

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 28

12.00 pm, Wednesday 6 May 2026
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 MLA, Member for Karama

Secretariat: Candice Maclean, Executive Director Parliamentary Support
Katie Helme, Committee Secretary
Dr Will Dreyer, Senior Research Officer

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1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mrs Zio moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 29 of 18 March 2026 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence noted.

Justine Davis moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of:

- the Answers to Questions Taken on Notice from the Department of Corporate and Digital Development; and
- the Responses to Written Questions and Attachments from the Department of Corporate and Digital Development, redacting the answer to Question No. 47.

Question put and passed.

3. INQUIRY REFERRAL: ACACIA DIGITAL PATIENT RECORD SYSTEM

The Committee discussed the future direction of the inquiry and directed the Secretariat to prepare an updated timeline for its next meeting.

4. PETITIONS

Mr Howe moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

The Committee does not refer Petition No. 20 for debate noting the Minister for Police's advice that the Pine Creek Police Station will not be closed.

Question put and passed.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Howe thanked Mr Brown for his work on the Committee, noting it would be his last meeting.

The Committee discussed the Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees Conference, attending by Mr Howe, Mr Brown and the members of the Secretariat. Mr Howe advised that a Chair's Draft Report would be prepared for consideration at the Committee's next meeting to be tabled during the next sitting week.

6. NEXT MEETING

Deliberative Meeting: 12.00 pm, Wednesday 13 May 2026

Meeting closed at 12.25 pm.

Mr Clinton Howe, MLA
Chair

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 29

12.00 pm, Wednesday 13 May 2026
Litchfield Room

Present:	Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay Mr Brian O'Gallagher MLA, Member for Karama Mr Ed Smelt MLA, Member for Nightcliff Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston
Secretariat:	Katie Helme, Committee Secretary Dr Will Dreyer, Senior Research Officer Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer Candice Mclean, Executive Director

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1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mrs Zio moved and Mr O'Gallagher seconded that:

> The Minutes of Meeting No. 28 of 6 May 2026 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted.

4. INQUIRY REFERRAL: ACACIA DIGITAL PATIENT RECORD SYSTEM

The Committee agreed to the updated inquiry plan and agreed to meet again on 27 May 2026 to discuss the Consideration of Evidence.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair advised the Committee that his report of the Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees would be prepared for consideration at the Committee's next meeting on 27 May 2026.

6. NEXT MEETING

Deliberative Meeting: 1.00 pm, Wednesday 27 May 2026

Meeting closed at 12.44 pm

Mr Clinton Howe MLA
Chair

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 30
1.00 pm, Wednesday 27 May 2026
Litchfield Room

Present:
Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay
Mr Brian O'Gallagher MLA, Member for Karama
Mr Ed Smelt MLA, Member for Nightcliff
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston

Secretariat:
Katie Helme, Committee Secretary
Dr Will Dreyer, Senior Research Officer
Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer
Candice Mclean, Executive Director Parliamentary Support

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1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr O'Gallagher moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

> The Minutes of Meeting No. 29 of 13 May 2026 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. INQUIRY REFERRAL: ACACIA DIGITAL PATIENT RECORD SYSTEM

The Committee considered the evidence received to date.

Justine Davis moved and Mr Smelt seconded that:

> The Committee write to the Departments of Health and Corporate and Digital Development and the Australian Medical Association NT to seek clarification in relation to program funding and the impact of Acacia on processes such as operating theatre bookings.

Question put and passed.

Mr Howe moved and Mr O'Gallagher seconded that:

> The Secretariat commence report drafting as agreed to in the meeting, and provide an update at the Committee's next meeting on 22 July 2026, including any additional proposed recommendations identified while drafting.

Question put and passed.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair advised that his report on the Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees Conference would be prepared for consideration at the Committee's next meeting on 22 July 2026.

4. NEXT MEETING

Deliberative Meeting: 12 .00 pm, Wednesday 22 July 2026

Meeting closed at 3.20 pm.

Mr Clinton Howe, MLA
Chair

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 31
12.00 pm, Wednesday 22 July 2026
Litchfield Room

Present:	Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston Mr Brian O'Gallagher MLA, Member for Karama Mr Ed Smelt MLA, Member for Nightcliff
Apologies:	Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay
Secretariat:	Julia Knight, Committee Secretary Dr Will Dreyer, Senior Research Officer Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer Candice Mclean, Executive Director Parliamentary Support

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1. BRIEFING FROM THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

The Auditor-General briefed the Committee on his Report No. 1: 2026 -27, *Results of Financial Audits 30 June and 31 December 2025.*

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Justine Davis moved and Mr O'Gallagher seconded that:

> The Minutes of Meeting No. 30 of 27 May 2026 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr Howe moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

> The Committee authorise publication of the additional information provided by the Departments of Health and Corporate and Digital Development and the Australian Medical Association NT regarding the Acacia Digital Patient Record System.

Question put and passed.

4. INQUIRY REFERRAL: ACACIA DIGITAL PATIENT RECORD SYSTEM

The Committee considered proposed recommendations and provided further direction to the Secretariat regarding report drafting.

5. PETITIONS

Justine Davis moved and Mr Smelt seconded that:

> The Committee write to the Clerk to recommend that Petition No. 23 regarding replacement of the Katherine Hospital with a new facility outside of the Katherine flood zone during the be debated during the August meetings of the Assembly .

Question put and passed.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Howe moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

> The Committee write to the Charles Darwin University and request advice as to the number of international students currently enrolled at the university broken down by the number studying

at campuses in the Northern Territory, the Sydney campus, and those undertaking studies on line.

Question put and passed.

7. NEXT MEETING

Deliberative Meeting: 1.00 pm, Monday 17 August 2026.

Meeting closed at 1.33 pm.

Mr Clinton Howe, MLA
Chair

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 32

1.00 pm, Thursday 20 August 2026

Litchfield Room

Present:	Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Chair, Member for Drysdale Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston Mr Brian O'Gallagher MLA, Member for Karama Mr Ed Smelt MLA, Member for Nightcliff
Secretariat:	Julia Knight, Committee Secretary Dr Will Dreyer, Senior Research Officer Katie Helme, Committee Secretary Candice Mclean, Executive Director Parliamentary Support

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1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr O'Gallagher moved and Mr Smelt seconded that:

> The Minutes of Meeting No. 31 of 22 July 2026 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted

3. INQUIRY REFERRAL: ACACIA DIGITAL PATIENT RECORD SYSTEM

Mr Howe moved and Mr O'Gallagher seconded that:

> The Committee adopt the Chair's draft report *Inquiry into the Acacia Digital Patient Record System* as amended for tabling in the Assembly during the August sittings.

Question put and passed.

4. PETITIONS

Mr Smelt moved and Mr O'Gallagher seconded that:

1. The Committee write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Development regarding Petition No. 24 and request a response to the matters raised in the petition.
2. The Committee write to the Clerk to recommend that the Assembly debate Petition No. 25 regarding the deterioration of public housing in the Northern Territory.

Question put and passed.

5. NEXT MEETING

Deliberative Meeting: 12.00 pm, Wednesday 26 August 2026.

Meeting closed at 1.50 pm.

Mr Clinton Howe, MLA
Chair