



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Legislative Scrutiny Committee

Associated Minutes of Proceedings

Inquiry into the Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

April 2025





LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Legislative Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 11

12.06 pm, Thursday 27 March 2025

Litchfield Room

Present: Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Chair, Member for Wanguri
Mr Andrew Mackay MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Goyder
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston
Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Member for Drysdale
Mr Chanston Paech MLA, Member for Gwoja

Secretariat: Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Mr Mackay moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

The Minutes of Meetings No 10 of 20 March 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. BILL REFERRALS

In relation to the new Bill referrals, the Committee agreed as follows:

- Domestic and Family Violence and Victims Legislation Amendment Bill 2025
 - Public briefing from Attorney-General's Department scheduled for 10.00 am, Tuesday 1 April 2025
 - Submissions due date by Friday 4 April 2025
 - Key stakeholder list including suggestions from Mr Paech agreed to – Justine Davis to email secretariat with additional stakeholders.
 - Consideration of submissions tentatively scheduled for 10.00 am, Monday 7 April 2025
- Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Legislation Amendment Bill 2025
 - Public briefing from Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority scheduled for 11.00 am, Tuesday 1 April 2025
 - Submissions due date by Friday 4 April 2025
 - Key stakeholder list agreed to – any additional stakeholders to be emailed to secretariat by 3.00 pm.
 - Consideration of submissions tentatively scheduled for 10.00 am, Monday 7 April 2025

3. NEXT MEETING

10.00 am, Tuesday 1 April 2025 – Public Briefings Serial 22 & 23, and consideration of submissions Serial 19 & 20.

Meeting closed at 12.22 pm

Mrs Oly Carlson MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Legislative Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 12

10.00 am, Tuesday 1 April 2025

Litchfield Room

Present: Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Chair, Member for Wanguri
Mr Andrew Mackay MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Goyder via TEAMS
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston
Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Member for Drysdale
Mr Chanston Paech MLA, Member for Gwoja via TEAMS

Secretariat: Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

1. PUBLIC BRIEFING – DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE AND VICTIMS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025

The Committee heard from the following witnesses:

Janet Hanigan: Executive Director, Strategic Policy Coordination, Attorney-General's Department

Hannah Clee: Acting Director, Legal Policy, Attorney-General's Department

Questions Taken on Notice

1. How many Domestic Violence Orders are in effect on any given day in the Territory?
2. In terms of the mandatory sentencing aspect of the Bill, how will that change the impact of judges to order offenders to attend a men's behaviour change program?
3. What data can you provide regarding the usefulness of mandatory sentencing in our current system?
4. What data is there that might show that mandatory sentencing assists with domestic, family and sexual violence resolution?
5. What evaluation will you do in terms of the impact of this Bill?

The witnesses withdrew.

2. PUBLIC BRIEFING – NORTHERN TERRITORY ABORIGINAL SACRED SITES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025

The Committee heard from the following witnesses:

Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority

Dr Benedict Scambary: Chief Executive Officer

Cameron McInerney: Director Policy and Governance

The witnesses withdrew.

Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Jean Doherty: Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Strategic and Corporate Services

Bronwyn Haack: Senior Director, Legal Policy via TEAMS

Chris Stewart: Director, Aboriginal Land and Waters

The witnesses withdrew.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Mr Mackay moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

The Minutes of Meetings No 11 of 27 March 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted.

5. CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS: LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025

Justine Davis moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of submissions 1 – 6 redacting personal information in all submissions such as personal addresses and phone numbers prior to publication.

Question put and passed.

The Committee further agreed not to hold a public hearing on the Bill.

6. CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS: ATTORNEY-GENERAL LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025

Justine Davis moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

That the Committee authorise publication of submission 1 redacting personal information in all submissions such as personal addresses and phone numbers prior to publication.

Question put and passed.

The Committee further agreed not to hold a public hearing on the Bill.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

- Secretariat to circulate updated inquiry plan for the Bills referred in the March sittings.
- Submissions for the Domestic and Family Violence and Victims Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 and the Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 to be considered at the committee's next meeting.
- Secretariat to provide a consideration of evidence for the Attorney-General Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 and the Local Government Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 for consideration at the committee's next meeting to inform directions for report drafting.

8. NEXT MEETING

Deliberative: 9.00 am, Monday 7 April 2025:

- Consideration of submissions: Serial 22 & 23
- Consideration of evidence and direction for report drafting: Serial 19 & 20

Meeting closed at 12.27 pm



Mrs Oly Carlson MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Legislative Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 13

9.02 am, Monday 7 April 2025

Litchfield Room

Present:	Mr Andrew Mackay MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Goyder Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Member for Drysdale
Substituting Members:	Mr Manuel Brown MLA, Member for Arafura for Mr Chanston Paech MLA, Member for Gwoja Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, Member for Blain for Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Member for Wanguri
Secretariat:	Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Mr Mackay moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

The Minutes of Meetings No 12 of 1 April 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted

3. CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS: DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE AND VICTIMS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025

Mr Mackay moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of submissions received, excluding proforma submissions, redacting personal information in all submissions such as personal addresses and phone numbers prior to publication.

Question put and passed.

Mr Mackay moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

The Committee resolve not to hold public hearings on the Domestic and Family Violence and Victims Legislation Amendment Bill 2025.

3 for 2 against.

Question put and passed.

4. CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS: NORTHERN TERRITORY ABORIGINAL SACRED SITES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025

Mr Mackay moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of submissions received, excluding proforma submissions, redacting personal information in all submissions such as personal addresses and phone numbers prior to publication.

Question put and passed.

Justine Davis moved and Mr Brown seconded that:

The Committee hold public hearings on the Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 on Wednesday 16 April 2025.

2 for 3 against

Question negatived.

The Committee further agreed that the Committee Secretary would prepare a consideration of evidence table for the Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 for discussion at the Committee's next meeting scheduled for 9.00 am, Thursday 10 April 2025.

5. CONSIDERATION OF EVIDENCE: ATTORNEY-GENERAL LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025

Mr Mackay moved and Mr Kerle seconded that:

The Chair's draft report covers the issues raised in the consideration of evidence and that the report recommend that the Assembly pass the Attorney-General Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 with no amendments.

Question put and passed.

6. CONSIDERATION OF EVIDENCE: LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025

Mr Mackay moved and Mr Kerle seconded that:

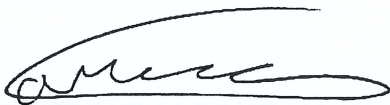
The Chair's draft report covers the issues raised in the consideration of evidence and that the report recommend that the Assembly pass the Local Government Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 with the amendments as discussed.

Question put and passed

7. NEXT MEETING

9.00 am, Thursday 10 April 2025

Meeting closed at 11.02 am



Mr Andrew Mackay MLA
Deputy Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Legislative Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 14

9.00 am, Thursday 10 April 2025

Litchfield Room

Present:	Mr Andrew Mackay MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Goyder Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Member for Drysdale
Substituting Members:	Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly for Mr Chanston Paech MLA, Member for Gwoja Mr Khoda Patel MLA, Member for Casuarina for Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Member for Wanguri
Secretariat:	Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Mr Mackay moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

The Minutes of Meetings No 13 of 7 April 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. CHAIR'S DRAFT REPORT – ATTORNEY-GENERAL LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025

Mr Mackay moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

The Committee adopt the Chair's draft report: *Inquiry into the Attorney-General Legislation Amendment Bill 2025*, to be tabled out of session with the Speaker on Monday 14 April 2025 pursuant to SO 200(4), for subsequent tabling in the Assembly on Tuesday 13 May 2025.

Question put and passed.

3. CONSIDERATION OF EVIDENCE: NORTHERN TERRITORY ABORIGINAL SACRED SITES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025

Mr Mackay moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

The Committee resolve not to hold public hearings on the Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Legislation Amendment Bill 2025.

3 for 2 against.

Question put and passed.

Justine Davis and Mr Young registered their strong opposition to the Committee's decision not to hold public hearings on the Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Legislation Amendment Bill 2025.

4. NEXT MEETING

10.00 am, Tuesday 15 April 2025.

Meeting closed at 9.34 am.

Mr Andrew Mackay MLA
Deputy Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Legislative Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 15

10.00 am, Tuesday 15 April 2025

Litchfield Room

Present:	Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Chair, Member for Wanguri Mr Andrew Mackay MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Goyder Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Member for Drysdale
Substituting Members:	Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly for Mr Chanston Paech MLA, Member for Gwoja
Secretariat:	Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Mr Mackay moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No 14 of 10 April 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

Justine Davis moved and Mr Mackay seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of the Answers to Questions Taken on Notice from the Attorney-General's Department regarding the Domestic and Family Violence and Victims Legislation Amendment Bill 2025.

Question put and passed.

3. CONSIDERATION OF EVIDENCE: DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE AND VICTIMS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025

Mrs Carlson moved and Mr Mackay seconded that:

The Chair's draft report covers the issues raised in the consideration of evidence as discussed.

Question put and passed.

4. CONSIDERATION OF EVIDENCE: NORTHERN TERRITORY ABORIGINAL SACRED SITES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025

Mrs Carlson moved and Justine seconded that:


The Chair's draft report covers the issues raised in the consideration of evidence as discussed.

Question put and passed

5. NEXT MEETING

9.00 am, Monday 28 April 2025.

Meeting closed at 11.22 am


Mrs Oly Carlson MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Legislative Scrutiny Committee

DRAFT MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 16

9.01 am, Monday 28 April 2025

Litchfield Room

Present: Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Chair, Member for Wanguri
Mr Andrew Mackay MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Goyder
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston
Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Member for Drysdale
Mr Chanston Paech MLA, Member for Gwoja

Secretariat: Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Ms Katie Helme, Committee Secretary
Ms Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Mr Mackay moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No 15 of 15 April 2025 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr Mackay moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of the addendum to the Central Land Council's submission on the Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Legislation Amendment Bill 2025.

The Committee further noted that publication of the addendum does not establish a precedent regarding acceptance of late submissions in the future.

Question put and passed.

3. CONSIDERATION OF CHAIR'S DRAFT REPORT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025

Mr Mackay moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

The Committee adopt the Chair's draft report: *Inquiry into the Local Government Legislation Amendment Bill 2025*, to be tabled out of session with the Speaker on Tuesday 29 April 2025 pursuant to SO 200(4), for subsequent tabling in the Assembly on Tuesday 13 May 2025.

Question put and passed.

4. CONSIDERATION OF CHAIR'S DRAFT REPORT: DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE AND VICTIMS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025

Mrs Carlson moved and Mr Mackay seconded that:

The Committee adopt the Chair's draft report: *Inquiry into the Domestic and Family Violence and Victims Legislation Amendment Bill 2025* as amended, to be tabled out of session with the Speaker on Tuesday 29 April 2025 pursuant to SO 200(4), for subsequent tabling in the Assembly on Tuesday 13 May 2025.

Question put and passed.

5. CONSIDERATION OF CHAIR'S DRAFT REPORT: NORTHERN TERRITORY ABORIGINAL SACRED SITES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025

Mrs Carlson moved and Mr Mackay seconded that:

The Committee adopt the Chair's draft report: *Inquiry into the Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Legislation Amendment Bill 2025* as amended, to be tabled out of session with the Speaker on Tuesday 29 April 2025 pursuant to SO 200(4), for subsequent tabling in the Assembly on Tuesday 13 May 2025.

3 for 2 against.

Question put and passed.

6. NEXT MEETING

9.00 am, Monday 28 April 2025.

Meeting closed at 9.28 am.

Mrs Oly Carlson MLA
Chair