



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Estimates Committee

Terms of Reference

Resolution of 6 May 2026

That the Assembly resolves that:

1. There be appointed an Estimates Committee of the Legislative Assembly (the committee) for the purpose of examining and reporting on the:
 - i. estimates of proposed expenditure contained in the Appropriation (2026–2027) Bill (the Appropriation Bill) and related budget documents
 - ii. Treasury Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, Serial 64
 - iii. activities, performance, practices and financial management of the Power and Water Corporation, Jacana Energy and Territory Generation with reference to those corporations' Statements of Corporate Intent of 2026–27.
2. The membership of the committee will be three government members, one opposition member and one crossbench member to be nominated in writing to the Speaker by the relevant Whip or crossbench member. Nominations to the Speaker should occur no later than Monday 11 May 2026.
3. The committee may hold hearings on the following days:
 - Tuesday 9 June 2026
 - Wednesday 10 June 2026
 - Thursday 11 June 2026
 - Monday 15 June 2026
 - Tuesday 16 June 2026
 - Wednesday 17 June 2026
 - Thursday 18 June 2026.
4. The total time for the hearings of the committee may not exceed 60 hours.
5. The maximum time of the appearance of the Chief Minister and the Treasurer shall not exceed eight hours. The maximum time of the appearance of the Auditor-General shall not exceed 30 minutes. For each other minister and the Speaker the maximum time of their appearance shall not exceed seven hours.
6. The committee will publish a schedule of the days and times of hearings and the times allotted for hearings from ministers, the Auditor-General, the Speaker and board Chairs by Friday 15 May 2026. The committee may only amend the published schedule with the consent of the Leader of Government Business.
7. The committee shall examine the proposed expenditure contained in the Appropriation Bill by portfolios in accordance with an agenda published by the committee, and the proposed expenditure shall be considered on an output-by-output basis for each portfolio unit, except that the Auditor-General's Office shall be examined separately from outputs relating to the Chief Minister's portfolio.
8. At the hearing for the Auditor-General's Office:
 - i. questions relating to the Auditor-General's Office shall be put to the Auditor-General

- ii. no agency-related whole-of-government budget and fiscal strategy questions shall be asked, except questions strictly relating to the Office's appropriation or administrative arrangements.
9. All questions should conform to Standing Order 109, and answers will be concise and directly relevant to the question asked.
10. Answers to questions taken on notice during the hearings, or additional information about an answer given by or on behalf of a minister, the Auditor-General, the Speaker or Board Chair, are to be written and given to the Estimates Committee Secretariat by Monday 13 July 2026. Answers or additional information so received are authorised for publication.
11. The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly is authorised to publish a transcript of the committee proceedings, whether or not it has been edited, as soon as practicable.
12. Evidence taken in public by the committee and documents presented to the committee are deemed to be authorised for publication by the committee unless the committee orders otherwise.
13. At a hearing of the committee the Chair may, after a warning, order any Member of the Assembly whose conduct, in the opinion of the Chair, continues to be disorderly or disruptive, to immediately withdraw from the committee for a period of one hour.
14. Following their second reading the Bills stand referred to the committee for report by 18 June 2026, after which consideration in detail will take place followed by the third reading.
15. The Assembly's routine of business for Thursday 18 June 2026 is:
 - i. 2.30 pm—prayers and acknowledgement of country
 - ii. report from Estimates Committee and consideration of the Appropriation (2026–2027) Bill 2026 and the Treasury Legislation Amendment Bill 2026
 - iii. Government Business – Notices and Orders of the Day.
16. When the committee's report on the Appropriation Bill is presented, the Assembly shall immediately consider the question that the expenditure proposed in the Appropriation (2026–2027) Bill stand as printed and the report of the Estimates Committee be noted.
17. The following time limits shall apply to the debate on this question:
 - ministers, Leader of the Opposition and shadow ministers, 20 minutes
 - any other member, 10 minutes
 - the maximum period for consideration shall be five hours.
18. When the question on the expenditure proposed in the Appropriation Bill is agreed to, the following question is proposed and put immediately: that the remainder of the Bill and the Treasury Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 stand as printed.
19. When the Bills have been agreed to by the Assembly, their third reading may be taken into consideration immediately.
20. This resolution shall have effect, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders.