



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**Select Committee on Opening Parliament to the People**

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# **Associated Minutes of Proceedings**

## **Report on Opening Parliament to the People**

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**March 2017**



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**  
13<sup>th</sup> Assembly

**Select Committee on Opening Parliament to the People**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Meeting No. 1**

12.03 pm, Thursday, 20 October 2016  
Litchfield Room

- Present:** Mr Jeff Collins, MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim  
Ms Ngaree Ah Kit, MLA, Member for Karama  
Mr Gary Higgins, MLA, Member for Daly  
Mrs Robyn Lambley, MLA, Member for Araluen  
Mr Scott McConnell, MLA, Member for Stuart  
Mr Gerry Wood, MLA, Member for Nelson  
Ms Kate Worden, MLA, Member for Sanderson
- Secretariat:** Mr Russell Keith, First Clerk Assistant and Committee Secretary  
Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Ms Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer  
Mrs Lauren Copley-Orrock, Administrative/Research Officer

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**1. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

The Secretary called for nominations for Chair.

Ms Worden proposed Mr Collins be Chair of the Committee. Ms Ngaree Ah Kit seconded the proposal.

Mr Wood proposed Mrs Lambley be Chair of the Committee. Mr Higgins seconded the proposal.

The Secretary conducted a ballot and Mr Collins received four votes and Mrs Lambley received three. Mr Collins was declared the Chair of the Committee.

**2. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR**

The Chair called for nominations for Deputy Chairman.

Mr Wood proposed Mrs Lambley be Deputy Chair of the Select Committee on Opening Parliament to the People. Mr Higgins seconded the proposal.

There be no other Member proposed to be Deputy Chair, the Secretary declared Mrs Lambley elected as Deputy Chair.

**3. COMMITTEE PROCEDURES**

Mr McConnell moved and Mr Higgins seconded

That pursuant to Standing Order 274(d), the Committee authorises the Chair of the Committee to issue media releases and give briefing on matters relating to its inquiry.

That pursuant to Standing Order 274(a), the Committee authorises the publication of any public hearing transcripts after witnesses have had 5 business days to make any corrections.

Question – put and passed.

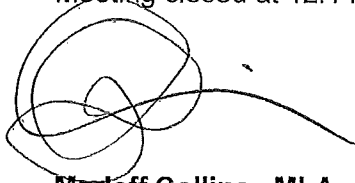
**4. INQUIRY PLANNING**

The Committee agreed to provide comments on the draft green paper circulated at the meeting before meeting on Wednesday 26 October 2016 to decide on a plan for the inquiry.

**5. NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting to be during the luncheon suspension on Wednesday, 26 October 2016.

Meeting closed at 12.14 pm

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**Mr Jeff Collins , MLA  
Chair**



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

13th Assembly

**Select Committee on Opening Parliament to the People**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Meeting No. 2**

1.01pm, Wednesday, 26 October 2016

Litchfield Room

**Present:** Mr Jeff Collins, MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim  
Ms Ngaree Ah Kit, MLA, Member for Karama  
Mr Gary Higgins, MLA, Member for Daly  
Mrs Robyn Lambley, MLA, Member for Araluen  
Mr Scott McConnell, MLA, Member for Stuart  
Mr Gerry Wood, MLA, Member for Nelson  
Ms Kate Worden, MLA, Member for Sanderson

**Secretariat:** Mr Russell Keith, First Clerk Assistant and Committee Secretary  
Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Ms Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer

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**1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Ms Worden moved and Ms Ah Kit seconded

That the minutes No. 1 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

**2. GREEN PAPER ON PARLIAMENTARY REFORM**

Mr Higgins moved and Mr Wood seconded

That the Committee adopts the Green Paper as a report under Standing Order 198 for tabling under Standing Order 200.

Question put and passed.

**3. INQUIRY PLANNING**

The Committee agreed to the circulated Inquiry Plan with the following dates and amendments:

- Submissions due by Monday, 28 September 2016
- Public hearing to be held on Monday 5 December 2016.
- The Committee will meet in early February 2017 to discuss the draft report which will be circulated in December 2016 and determine the tabling date.
- The key stakeholder list will be updated to include:
  - All Members of the Legislative Assembly
  - Ken Parish – Charles Darwin University
  - Rolf Gerritsen – Charles Darwin University

**4. APPROVAL OF MEDIA RELEASE, ADVERTISEMENT AND SUBMISSION LETTER**

Mr Higgins moved and Mr Wood seconded

That the media release, NT News Advertisement and invitation to make a submission letter be approved.

Question put and passed

**5. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr Higgins moved and Mr Wood seconded

That Committee investigate options to travel to Brisbane before the November sittings to observe the Queensland Parliament Committee system and meet with Members, and seek the Speaker's approval to travel to Brisbane to do so.

Question put and passed

Meeting closed 1.31 pm.



**Mr Jeff Collins , MLA**

**Chair**



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

13th Assembly

**Select Committee on Opening Parliament to the People**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Meeting No. 3**

12.15 pm, Wednesday, 30 November 2016

Litchfield Room

**Present:** Mr Jeff Collins, MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim  
Ms Ngaree Ah Kit, MLA, Member for Karama  
Mr Gary Higgins, MLA, Member for Daly  
Mrs Robyn Lambley, MLA, Member for Araluen  
Mr Scott McConnell, MLA, Member for Stuart  
Mr Gerry Wood, MLA, Member for Nelson  
Mrs Kate Worden, MLA, Member for Sanderson

**Secretariat:** Mr Russell Keith, First Clerk Assistant and Committee Secretary  
Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Ms Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer  
Ms Annie McCall, Administration/Research Officer

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**1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Mrs Worden moved and Ms Ah Kit seconded

That the minutes No. 2 be confirmed, with correction to the date in item 3.

Question put and passed.

**2. PUBLICATION OF SUBMISSION**

Mr Higgins moved and Mr McConnell seconded

That the Committee authorises the publication of submissions 1 to 12 to its inquiry.

Question put and passed.

**3. PUBLIC HEARING**

The Committee agreed to extend an invitation to attend the hearing on 5 December 2016 to all submitters, intending submitters and the Chairs of both the Chief Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians and First Circles.

Meeting closed 12.57 pm.

**Mr Jeff Collins, MLA**

**Chair**



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY  
13<sup>th</sup> Assembly

**Select Committee on Opening Parliament to the People**

**Minutes of Proceedings**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Meeting No. 4**

8.30 am, Monday, 5 December 2017  
Litchfield Room, Level 3, Parliament House

- Present:** Mr Jeff Collins, MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim  
Ms Ngaree Ah Kit, MLA, Member for Karama  
Mr Gary Higgins, MLA, Member for Daly  
Mrs Robyn Lambley, MLA, Member for Araluen  
Mr Scott McConnell, MLA, Member for Stuart  
Mr Gerry Wood, MLA, Member for Nelson  
Mrs Kate Worden, MLA, Member for Sanderson
- Secretariat:** Mr Russell Keith, First Clerk Assistant and Committee Secretary  
Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Ms Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer  
Ms Annie McCall, Administration/Research Officer

**1. PUBLIC HEARING**

The following witness appeared before the Committee:

**Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory**

Mr Michael Tatham, Clerk

The witness withdrew

The following witness appeared before the Committee:

**Auditor-General of the Northern Territory**

Julie Crisp, Auditor-General

The witness withdrew

The following witness appeared before the Committee:

Mr Brendan Doran PSM

The witness withdrew

The following witness appeared before the Committee:

Professor Ned Aughterson

The witness withdrew

The following witness appeared before the Committee:

Mr Ian McNeill PSM

The witness withdrew

The following witnesses appeared before the Committee:

**East Arnhem Regional Council**

Ms Kaye Thurlow, Councillor East Arnhem Regional Council

Mr Gawura Wanambi, Councillor East Arnhem Regional Council

The witnesses withdrew

The following witness appeared before the Committee:

**NT Greens**

Justin Tutty

The witness withdrew

The following witness appeared before the Committee:

**Chief Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians**

Mr Sam Swan, Member, Round Table

The witness withdrew

**2. TABLED PAPERS**

Mr Gerry Wood MLA tabled Information on North-West Territories (Canada) Legislative Assembly committee system.

**3. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 2.17 pm



**Mr Jeff Collins, MLA**

**Chair**





LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

13th Assembly

**Select Committee on Opening Parliament to the People**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Meeting No. 5**

09.10 am, Thursday, 09 February 2017  
Ormiston Room

- Present:** Mr Jeff Collins, MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim  
Ms Ngaree Ah Kit, MLA, Member for Karama  
Mr Gary Higgins, MLA, Member for Daly  
Mrs Robyn Lambley, MLA, Member for Araluen (via telephone)  
Mr Gerry Wood, MLA, Member for Nelson  
Mrs Kate Worden, MLA, Member for Sanderson
- Secretariat:** Mr Russell Keith, First Clerk Assistant and Committee Secretary  
Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Ms Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer  
Ms Annie McCall., Administration/Research Officer

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1. **MEETING**  
Mr McConnell was an apology.
  2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**  
Mrs Worden moved and Mr Wood seconded:  
That the minutes No. 3 and No. 4 be confirmed.  
Question put and passed.
  3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**  
There were no matters arising from the minutes.
  4. **CORRESPONDENCE**  
The correspondence from Mr Wood dated 18 January 2017 was noted.
  5. **PUBLICATION OF SUBMISSION**  
Ms Ah Kit moved and Mr Higgins seconded  
That the Committee authorises the publication of submission 13 to its inquiry  
Question put and passed.
  6. **CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT REPORT**  
The Committee agreed to the following amendments to the draft report:
    - Recommendation 2: amend to refer to the membership reflecting the composition of the Assembly.
    - Recommendation 4: Committee names will be Portfolio Scrutiny Committee 1 and Portfolio Scrutiny Committee 2.

- Recommendation 5: Mondays of each sitting week will be set aside for committee meetings and public hearings instead of commencing 2pm sitting days.
- Following on from Recommendation 15 and to be reflected in a Sessional Order: that the time within which a Minister must respond to written questions should be modified so that any written question asked within a week of the introduction of an appropriation Bill must be responded to at least one clear day before the first day of the Estimates hearings.
- Recommendation 17: that the portfolio scrutiny committees hold 60 hours of Estimates and Government Owned Corporations scrutiny hearings over two weeks in June and a week's Annual Reports hearings in November, with the two committees holding consecutive hearings.

The Committee deferred consideration of the remainder of the report to the next meeting.

**7. NEXT MEETING**

12 noon, Wednesday, 15 February 2017

Meeting closed 11.05 am.



**Mr Jeff Collins, MLA**  
**Chair**



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

13th Assembly

**Select Committee on Opening Parliament to the People**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Meeting No. 6**

12.04 pm, Wednesday, 15 February 2017

Ormiston Room

- Present:** Mr Jeff Collins, MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim  
Ms Ngaree Ah Kit, MLA, Member for Karama  
Mr Gary Higgins, MLA, Member for Daly  
Mrs Robyn Lambley, MLA, Member for Araluen (via telephone)  
Mr Gerry Wood, MLA, Member for Nelson  
Mrs Kate Worden, MLA, Member for Sanderson  
Mr Chansey Paech, MLA, Member for Namatjira
- Secretariat:** Mr Russell Keith, First Clerk Assistant and Committee Secretary  
Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Ms Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer  
Ms Annie McCall., Administration/Research Officer

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**1. MEETING**

**2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Mr Higgins moved and Mrs Worden seconded

That the minutes of meeting No. 5 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**4. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT REPORT**

The Committee agreed to the following amendments to the draft report, to be confirmed by circulating a revised draft by email:

- Recommendation 9: to be amended to make clear that a committee can report back to the Assembly any time within the period of referral.
- Recommendation 22: that an additional mechanism be to allow debate of a Government response to a petition (two Members five minutes and two Members three minutes) if co-sponsored by 4 members.

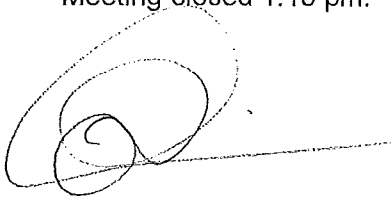
Mrs Worden moved and Mr Paech seconded

That the Committee write to the Leader of Government Business to seek her comment on the Committee's draft recommendations by 1 March 2017.

Question put and passed.

**5. NEXT MEETING**  
To be advised

Meeting closed 1.15 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, loopy 'C' followed by a horizontal line.

**Mr Jeff Collins, MLA**  
**Chair**



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

13th Assembly

**Select Committee on Opening Parliament to the People**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Meeting No. 7**

9.00 am, Monday, 13 March 2017  
Ormiston Room

- Present:** Mr Jeff Collins, MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim  
Ms Ngaree Ah Kit, MLA, Member for Karama  
Mr Gary Higgins, MLA, Member for Daly  
Mr Gerry Wood, MLA, Member for Nelson  
Mrs Kate Worden, MLA, Member for Sanderson  
Mr Chansey Paech, MLA, Member for Namatjira
- Secretariat:** Mr Russell Keith, First Clerk Assistant and Committee Secretary  
Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Ms Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer  
Ms Annie McCall, Administration/Research Officer

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**1. APOLOGIES**

Mrs Lambley was an apology.

**2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Mr Paech moved and Mr Higgins seconded

That the minutes of meeting No. 6 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

**3. CONSIDERATION OF LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS' COMMENTS**

The Committee discussed the comments on its draft recommendations received from the Leader of Government Business in her letter of 10 March 2017.

The Committee agreed to write to the Leader of Government Business in the terms outlined in the draft letter circulated to invite her to their next meeting on 15 March 2017 to discuss her comments.

**4. NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 15 March 2017 at 12.00pm in the Litchfield room.

Meeting closed 9.58 am.



Mr Jeff Collins, MLA

Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

13th Assembly

**Select Committee on Opening Parliament to the People**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Meeting No. 8**

12.00 pm, Wednesday, 22 March 2017  
Litchfield Room

- Present:** Mr Jeff Collins MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim  
Mrs Robyn Lambley MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Araluen  
Ms Ngaree Ah Kit MLA, Member for Karama  
Mr Gary Higgins MLA, Member for Daly  
Mr Gerry Wood MLA, Member for Nelson  
Mrs Kate Worden MLA, Member for Sanderson  
Mr Chansey Paech MLA, Member for Namatjira
- Secretariat:** Mr Russell Keith, First Clerk Assistant and Committee Secretary  
Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Ms Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer  
Ms Annie McCall, Administration/Research Officer

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**1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Mrs Worden moved and Ms Ah-Kit seconded

That the minutes of meeting No. 7 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

**2. DISCUSSION WITH LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

The Leader of Government Business arrived at 12.23 pm accompanied by Ms Emily Beresford-Cane, her Chief of Staff, and Mr Kieren Phillips the Chief Minister's Deputy Chief of Staff.

The Committee discussed its draft recommendations with the Leader of Government Business.

The Leader of Government Business and her company departed at 12.53 pm.

**3. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT REPORT**

The Committee considered amendments to the draft report arising from the discussion with the Leader of Government Business and requested that an amended draft be circulated.

**4. NEXT MEETING**

To be advised.

Meeting closed 12.55 pm.



Mr Jeff Collins, MLA

Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

13th Assembly

**Select Committee on Opening Parliament to the People**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Meeting No. 9**

10.02 am, Tuesday, 28 March 2017

Litchfield Room

**Present:** Mr Jeff Collins MLA, Chair, Member for Fong Lim  
Mrs Robyn Lambley MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Araluen (via telephone)  
Ms Ngaree Ah Kit MLA, Member for Karama  
Mr Gary Higgins MLA, Member for Daly  
Mr Gerry Wood MLA, Member for Nelson  
Mrs Kate Worden MLA, Member for Sanderson (via telephone)

**Apologies:** Mr Chansey Paech MLA, Member for Namatjira

**Secretariat:** Mr Russell Keith, First Clerk Assistant and Committee Secretary  
Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Ms Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer  
Ms Annie McCall., Administration/Research Officer

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**1. APOLOGIES**

Mr Paech was an apology

**2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Ms Ah Kit moved and Mr Higgins seconded

That the minutes of meeting No. 8 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

**3. PUBLICATION OF CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr Higgins moved and Mr Wood seconded

That the Committee authorises the publication of its letters to the Leader of Government Business dated 20 February 2017 and 13 March 2017, and her reply received 10 March 2017.

Question put and passed.

**4. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT REPORT**

The Committee considered the Chair's Draft Report and related documents.

Mr Higgins noted that reference to the "South Australian Legislative Assembly" on p 57 should be amended to be the "South Australian House of Assembly"

Ms Ah Kit moved and Mr Higgins seconded

That the Portfolio Scrutiny Committees 1 and 2 be renamed as the Justice and Families Committee and the Finance & Planning Committee.

Question put and passed.

The Committee agreed to amend the Summary of recommendations and Media Release to note the need for the portfolio scrutiny committees to implement strategies to communicate with people across the Territory, including remote and regional communities. Those amendments will be adopted by the Committee on the approval of the Chair and Mrs Worden.

Mr Higgins moved and Mr Wood seconded

That the Committee:

- a) adopts the amended report and Summary of Recommendations
- b) asks the Chair to send the report and Summary of Recommendation to the Speaker pursuant to Standing Order 200(4)
- c) endorses the amended draft media release.

Question put and passed.

## **5. NEXT MEETING**

No further meetings.

Meeting closed at 10.47 am

**Mr Jeff Collins, MLA**

**Chair**