



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Public Accounts Committee

Associated Minutes of Proceedings
Annual Report
2020-21

September 2021



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

14th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 1

10.00 am, Friday 13 November 2020
Litchfield Room

Present: Mr Joel Bowden MLA, Chair, Member for Johnston
Mr Mark Monaghan MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fong Lim
Mr Lawrence Costa MLA, Member for Arafura (via teleconference)
Mr Mark Turner MLA, Member for Blain
Mr Steve Edgington MLA, Member for Barkly
Mr Bill Yan MLA, Member for Namatjira
Mrs Robyn Lambley MLA, Member for Araluen (via teleconference)

Secretariat: Mr Russell Keith, Committee Secretary
Ms Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer
Mrs Melissa Campaniello, Administration / Research Officer

1. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

The Chair called for nominations for Deputy Chair.

Mr Monaghan proposed himself as Deputy Chair of Committee. Mr Costa seconded the proposal.

Mr Edgington proposed Mr Yan be Deputy Chair of the Committee. Mrs Lambley seconded the proposal.

There being more than one nomination the Chair asked the Secretary to conduct a ballot between the Members proposed in a similar manner to that in Standing Order 236.

The count of the ballot being even, the Chair deferred the conclusion of the ballot until after the arrival of Mr Turner.

2. BRIEFING FROM AUDITOR-GENERAL ON HER REPORT OF INCORRECT PAYMENT OF SUPERANNUATION (SECTION 14 DIRECTIVE) AUDIT

The Auditor-General provided a summary of her report findings to the Committee.

The Auditor-General withdrew from the meeting.

The Committee agreed to follow-up on the audit, commencing with writing to responsible agencies to ask what is being done in response to the recommendations.

3. PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

Mr Edgington moved and Mr Turner seconded:

That pursuant to Standing Order 194(1), the Committee authorises the publication of public hearing transcripts after witnesses have had 3 business days to make any corrections.

That pursuant to Standing Order 194(3)(b), subject to the directions of the Chair, the Committee authorises the Committee Secretary divulging evidence, documents, proceedings or reports on a confidential basis to the Auditor-General for comment.

That pursuant to Standing Order 194(4), the Committee authorises the Chair of the Committee to issue media releases and give briefings on matters relating to its inquiry.

Question put and passed.

4. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR CONTINUED

The ballot for the Deputy Chair was concluded. As Mr Monaghan had a majority of the votes the Chair declared Mr Monaghan to be elected as Deputy Chair.

5. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAM

The Committee discussed suggested options for its work program. The Committee agreed to identify priorities for the development of more detailed proposals.

6. MEETING TIMES

The Committee agreed to have standing meetings at 10.30am on Fridays of sitting weeks.

7. PETITIONS

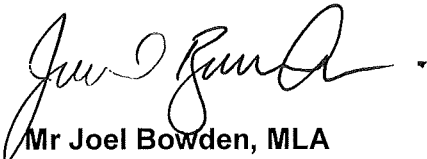
The committee considered Petition Number 1, requesting the redesign of the unfair priority school enrolment zones in Alice Springs to the committee.

The Committee agreed to seek further information from the Member for Braitling and from the Education Minister before recommending whether the petition should be debated in the Assembly.

8. NEXT MEETING

To be confirmed

Meeting closed at 11.32 am



Mr Joel Bowden, MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

14th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 2

10.30 am, Friday 26 February 2021
Litchfield Room

Present: Mr Joel Bowden MLA, Chair, Member for Johnston
Mr Mark Monaghan MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fong Lim
Mr Lawrence Costa MLA, Member for Arafura (via teleconference)
Mr Bill Yan MLA, Member for Namatjira
Mrs Robyn Lambley MLA, Member for Araluen

Secretariat: Mr Russell Keith, Committee Secretary
Ms Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer
Mrs Melissa Campaniello, Administration / Research Officer

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR

The Chair called for nominations for Chair.

Mr Bowden proposed himself as Chair of the Committee. Mr Costa seconded the proposal.

There being one nomination the Secretary declared Mr Bowden to be elected as Chair.

2. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

The Chair called for nominations for Deputy Chair.

Mr Yan proposed himself as Deputy Chair of Committee. Mrs Lambley seconded the proposal.

Mr Costa proposed Mr Monaghan as Deputy Chair of Committee. Mr Bowden seconded the proposal.

There being more than one nomination the Chair asked the Secretary to conduct a ballot between the Members proposed in a similar manner to that in Standing Order 236.

The ballot for the Deputy Chair was concluded. The Secretary advised Mr Monaghan received 3 votes and Mr Yan 2 votes. As Mr Monaghan had a majority of the votes the Chair declared Mr Monaghan to be elected as Deputy Chair

3. BRIEFING FROM THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON DECEMBER 2020 REPORT

The Auditor-General, Mrs Julie Crisp, briefed the committee on her December 2020 report.

4. AUDITOR-GENERAL REPORT ON INCORRECT PAYMENT OF SUPERANNUATION (SECTION 14 DIRECTIVE) AUDIT

The committee discussed the correspondence from the Commissioner for Public Employment regarding the incorrect payment of superannuation audit recommendations with the Auditor-General.

The committee requested the Auditor-General follow up with the Commissioner to seek more detailed information and an update on the implementation of recommendations.

The Auditor-General withdrew from the meeting.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr Yan moved and Mr Monaghan seconded:

The minutes of meeting No. 1, 13 November 2020 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence was noted.

7. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAM

The committee discussed suggested options for its work program. The committee agreed to identify priorities for the development of more detailed proposals.

8. KNUCKEY LAGOON PROPERTY PURCHASE

The committee agreed to discuss this matter further at a future meeting.


9. PETITIONS

The committee considered petitions 1, 2, 3 and 4. The committee agreed to write to the Minister for Health regarding petition No. 3 to seek further information regarding health facilities at Dundee Beach.

10. NEXT MEETING

10.30 am, Friday 26 March 2021

Meeting closed at 12.15 pm



Mr Joel Bowden MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

14th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 3

10.30 am, Friday 26 March 2021
Litchfield Room

Present: Mr Joel Bowden MLA, Chair, Member for Johnston
Mr Mark Monaghan MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fong Lim
Mr Lawrence Costa MLA, Member for Arafura (via teleconference)
Mr Bill Yan MLA, Member for Namatjira (via videoconference)
Mrs Robyn Lambley MLA, Member for Araluen (via teleconference)

Secretariat: Mr Russell Keith, Committee Secretary
Ms Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr Monaghan moved and Mr Yan seconded:

The minutes of meeting No. 2, 26 February 2021 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence was noted.

3. BRIEFING FROM THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON MARCH 2021 REPORT

The Auditor-General, Mrs Julie Crisp, briefed the committee on her March 2021 report.

The Auditor-General withdrew from the meeting.

4. AUDITOR-GENERAL REPORT ON INCORRECT PAYMENT OF SUPERANNUATION (SECTION 14 DIRECTIVE) AUDIT

The committee agreed to write to the Commissioner for Public Employment and Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Corporate and Digital Development to notify them of the committee's intent to hold a public hearing to seek further information on this issue following the subsequent report from the Auditor-General expected in August 2021.

5. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAM

The committee discussed suggested options for its work program. The committee agreed that Members would work with the secretariat to determine options for a work program looking into the Government's:

- Special Measures Recruitment and Selection Policy.
- Local Decision Making Framework.

6. KNUCKEY LAGOON PROPERTY PURCHASE

The committee noted the brief.

7. PETITIONS

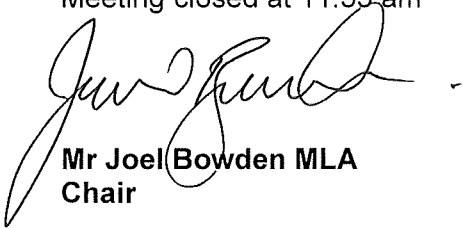
The committee considered petitions 5, 6 and 7. The committee agreed to the write to the:

- Minister for Territory Families and Urban Housing regarding the petition for the immediate eviction of all current tenancies at 2 Emery Avenue (petition 5).
- Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services seeking information about the provision cyclone shelter for the residents of the Dundee to Annie River Estate Area (petition 6).

8. NEXT MEETING

TBA

Meeting closed at 11.55 am



Mr Joel Bowden MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

14th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 4

10.30 am, Friday 7 May 2021

Litchfield Room

Present: Mr Joel Bowden MLA, Chair, Member for Johnston
Mr Mark Monaghan MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fong Lim
Mr Lawrence Costa MLA, Member for Arafura
Mr Bill Yan MLA, Member for Namatjira
Mrs Robyn Lambley MLA, Member for Araluen

Secretariat: Mr Russell Keith, Committee Secretary
Ms Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer
Mr Harry Lane, Administration/Research Officer

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr Costa moved and Mrs Lambley seconded:

The minutes of meeting No. 3, 26 March 2021 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence was noted.

3. LOCAL DECISION MAKING

The committee discussed options for an inquiry into local decision making and how the Member for Mulka could participate in public hearings and deliberative meetings for an inquiry, noting that Standing Orders allow a non-committee member to participate in public hearings but not in deliberative meetings.

The committee agreed that the Chair will organise for a motion to be proposed to the Assembly to enable the Member for Mulka to participate in deliberative meetings for the purposes of an inquiry into local decision making.

4. SPECIAL MEASURES RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION POLICY

The committee agreed to invite the Commissioner for Public Employment to a private briefing on Friday 14 May 2021 to outline the action that has been taken in response to the Review and the outcomes of the program to date.

5. PETITIONS

The committee noted the Minister for Territory Families and Urban Housing's letter to the Chair regarding the petition for the immediate eviction of all current tenancies at 2 Emery Avenue (petition 5) and agreed no further action required on this petition.

The committee requested the secretariat follow up on the letter sent to the Minister for Health on 23 March 2021 regarding the petition on health facilities at Dundee Beach (petition 3).

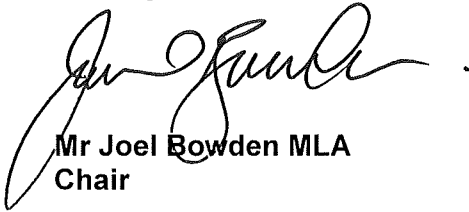
6. PROPOSAL FOR INQUIRY INTO YOUNG PEOPLE AND CRIME

The Committee discussed an email from Mrs Lambley proposing an inquiry into young people and crime. The Committee agreed to take no further action on the proposal at this time, noting that related issues may be considered in its proposed inquiry into local decision making.

7. NEXT MEETING

10.30 am, Friday 14 May 2021

Meeting closed at 10.50 am



Mr Joel Bowden MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

14th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 5

10.30 am, Friday 14 May 2021
Litchfield Room

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|---------------------|---|
| Present: | Mr Joel Bowden MLA, Chair, Member for Johnston Mr Mark Monaghan MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fong Lim Mr Bill Yan MLA, Member for Namatjira Mrs Robyn Lambley MLA, Member for Araluen |
| Apologies: | Mr Lawrence Costa MLA, Member for Arafura |
| Secretariat: | Mr Russell Keith, Committee Secretary Ms Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer Mr Harry Lane, Administration/Research Officer |

1. BRIEFING ON SPECIAL MEASURES RECRUITMENT PLANS

Ms Vicki Telfer, the Commissioner for Public Employment and Ms Camille Lew Fatt, the Director of Aboriginal Employment and Career Development from the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment, briefed the committee on the outcomes for the Special Measures Recruitment Plans and future targets of the plan.

The witnesses withdrew from the meeting.

The committee agreed that the Chair would draft a public statement about the information provided by the Commissioner during the briefing which would be circulated to the committee prior to being made public.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr Monaghan moved and Mr Yan seconded:

The minutes of meeting No. 4, 7 May 2021 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence was noted.

4. LOCAL DECISION MAKING

The committee agreed to invite representatives from the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet to a private briefing on Friday 28 May 2021.

5. NEXT MEETING

10.30 am, Friday 28 May 2021

Meeting closed at 11.50 am


Mr Joel Bowden MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

14th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 6

10.30 am, Friday 28 May 2021
Litchfield Room

Present: Mr Joel Bowden MLA, Chair, Member for Johnston
Mr Mark Monaghan MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fong Lim
Mr Bill Yan MLA, Member for Namatjira (via videoconference)
Mrs Robyn Lambley MLA, Member for Araluen
Mr Lawrence Costa MLA, Member for Arafura (via teleconference)

Mr Yingiya Guyula MLA, Member for Mulka (via teleconference)

Secretariat: Mr Russell Keith, Committee Secretary
Ms Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer
Mr Harry Lane, Administration/Research Officer

1. BRIEFING ON LOCAL DECISION MAKING

Ms Bridgette Bellenger, the General Manager and Mr Sean Hartley, the Senior Research Officer from the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet briefed the committee on Local Decision Making and the current initiatives being undertaken.

The witnesses withdrew from the meeting.

2. NEXT STEPS ON LOCAL DECISION MAKING

The committee discussed drafting of the terms of reference for a potential inquiry into Local Decision Making.

The Committee agreed that Mr Bowden and Mr Monaghan would revise the draft terms of reference for an inquiry into local decision making and to adopt those revised terms of reference by the consent of all members by email.

The Committee further agreed to meet as soon as convenient thereafter to consider a communication plan for the call for submissions and further inquiry planning.

Mr Guyula withdrew from the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING 5: 14 MAY 2021

Mr Monaghan moved and Mr Costa seconded:

The minutes of meeting No. 5, 14 May 2021 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence was noted.

5. STRATEGIC REVIEW OF AUDIT OFFICE

Mr Monaghan moved and Mr Yan seconded:

The Chair to write to the Chief Minister advising it was satisfied with the terms of reference for the strategic review of the Audit Office in the Chief Minister's letter dated 21 May 2021.

Question put and passed.

6. PETITIONS

The committee agreed to defer consideration of petitions. The committee asked the secretariat to follow-up on a response to the committee's letter to the Minister for Education regarding petition no 1.


7. SPECIAL MEASURES

The Committee agreed to the publication of the draft media release, subject to the Commissioner for Public Employment's agreement to the release of the information from the private briefing.

8. NEXT MEETING

As soon as convenient following finalising terms of reference for local decision making.

Meeting closed at 11.40 am


Joel Bowden MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

14th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 7

10.30 am, Thursday 10 June 2021
Litchfield Room

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| Present: | Mr Joel Bowden MLA, Chair, Member for Johnston Mr Mark Monaghan MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fong Lim Mr Bill Yan MLA, Member for Namatjira (via videoconference) |
| Apologies | Mrs Robyn Lambley MLA, Member for Araluen Mr Lawrence Costa MLA, Member for Arafura |
| Secretariat: | Mr Russell Keith, Committee Secretary Ms Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer Mr Harry Lane, Administration/Research Officer Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary |

1. MINUTES OF MEETING 6: 28 MAY 2021

Mr Monaghan moved and Mr Yan seconded:

The minutes of meeting No. 6, 28 May 2021 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence was noted.

3. INQUIRY INTO LOCAL DECISION MAKING

The committee discussed the draft timeline for the Inquiry into Local Decision Making.

Mr Yan moved and Mr Monaghan seconded:

The Public Accounts Committee will inquire into and report on the implementation and future of the Local Decision Making (LDM) Framework, having particular regard to:

- 1) the progress, achievements, challenges and future potential of LDM implementation across the Northern Territory.
- 2) how to foster community and leadership interest in and commitment to new LDM agreements.
- 3) the impact of technology, Treaty, Truth-Telling and Voice on LDM development.

Question put and passed.

Mr Yan moved and Mr Monaghan seconded:

The Committee calls for submission to its inquiry by 13 August 2021.

Question put and passed.

4. PETITIONS

The committee agreed to note petitions 3 and 6 and to forward the Minister's response to the Committee to the Member who tabled the petition.

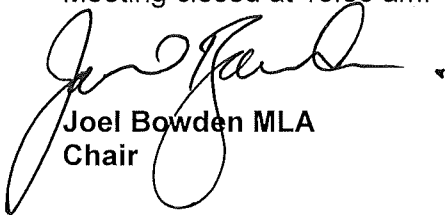
5. OTHER BUSINESS

The committee noted that the Media Release on Special Measures is to be released today and notices calling for submissions on the Inquiry into Local Decision Making is to be circulated tomorrow. Further, a letter from the Chair to the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet inviting submissions on the Inquiry into Local Decision Making and the nomination of a contact officer is also to be sent today.

6. NEXT MEETING

Friday, 10.30 am 13 August 2021.

Meeting closed at 10.50 am.



Joel Bowden MLA
Chair