



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Legislative Scrutiny Committee

Terms of Reference

Sessional Order 7

Establishment of Legislative Scrutiny Committee

- (1) The Assembly appoints a Legislative Scrutiny Committee
- (2) The membership of the scrutiny committee will comprise three Government Members, one Opposition Member and one crossbench Member.
- (3) The functions of the scrutiny committee shall be to inquire into and report on:
 - (a) any bill referred to it by the Assembly;
 - (b) in relation to any bill referred by the Assembly:
 - (i) whether the Assembly should pass the bill;
 - (ii) whether the Assembly should amend the bill;
 - (iii) whether the bill has sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals, including whether the bill:
 - (A) makes rights and liberties, or obligations, dependent on administrative power only if the power is sufficiently defined and subject to appropriate review; and
 - (B) is consistent with principles of natural justice; and
 - (C) allows the delegation of administrative power only in appropriate cases and to appropriate persons; and
 - (D) does not reverse the onus of proof in criminal proceedings without adequate justification; and
 - (E) confers power to enter premises, and search for or seize documents or other property, only with a warrant issued by a judge or other judicial officer; and
 - (F) provides appropriate protection against self-incrimination; and
 - (G) does not adversely affect rights and liberties, or impose obligations, retrospectively; and
 - (H) does not confer immunity from proceeding or prosecution without adequate justification; and
 - (I) provides for the compulsory acquisition of property only with fair compensation; and

- (J) has sufficient regard to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tradition;
and
 - (K) is unambiguous and drafted in a sufficiently clear and precise way.
- (iv) whether the bill has sufficient regard to the institution of Parliament, including whether a bill:
 - (A) allows the delegation of legislative power only in appropriate cases and to appropriate persons; and
 - (B) sufficiently subjects the exercise of a delegated legislative power to the scrutiny of the Legislative Assembly; and
 - (C) authorises the amendment of an Act only by another Act.
- (4) The committee will provide an annual report of its activities to the Assembly.

As amended 21 July 2026