



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

Terms of Reference

Standing Order 177

Public Accounts Committee

- (1) Public Accounts Committee will be appointed at the commencement of each Assembly and have the following duties:
 - (a) to examine the accounts of the receipts and expenditure of the Northern Territory and each statement and report tabled in the Legislative Assembly, pursuant to the Financial Management Act 1995 and the Audit Act 1995
 - (b) to report to the Legislative Assembly with such comments as it thinks fit, any items or matters in or arising in connection with those accounts, statements or reports, or in connection with the receipt or disbursement of the moneys to which they relate, to which the committee is of the opinion that the attention of Parliament should be drawn
 - (c) to report to the Legislative Assembly any alteration which the committee thinks desirable in the form of the public accounts or in the method of keeping them or in the method of receipt, control, issue or payment of public moneys
 - (d) to inquire into and report to the Legislative Assembly on any question in connection with the public accounts of the Northern Territory
 - (i) which is referred to it by a resolution of the Assembly or
 - (ii) which is referred to it by the Administrator or a Minister
 - (e) to inquire into and report to the Legislative Assembly on any matters within the executive authority of Ministers of the Territory to which the committee is of the opinion that the attention of the Assembly should be drawn.
- (2) The Committee will consist of six¹ Members.
- (3) The Committee must take care not to inquire into any matters which are being examined by a Select Committee of the Assembly especially appointed to inquire into such matters and any question arising on possible overlap may be referred to the Assembly for determination.
- (4) The Committee will elect a Government Member as Chair.
- (5) The Committee will have power to appoint sub-committees and to refer to any such sub-committee any matter which the Committee is empowered to examine.
- (6) The Committee will provide an annual report of its activities to the Assembly.

¹ Assembly resolution of 16 October 2024 provided that the Committee would have five members.

Standing Order 121

Action on Petition

- (1) After a petition has been read in the Assembly, any member may move, without notice, that the petition be referred to the Public Accounts Committee for consideration to determine whether the petition should be debated.
- (2) If the committee determines that the petition may be debated, it will notify the Clerk of its decision in writing and the debate of the petition will be set down on the Notice Paper as an order of the day for Debates on Petitions.
- (3) When the order of the day is called on, the member who moved that the petition be referred to the Public Accounts Committee will move that the Assembly note the petition. This motion cannot be amended. The mover and a Minister may speak for up to 10 minutes, and 4 other members may speak for up to 3 minutes. The mover may not speak in reply.
- (4) An order of the day for Debates on Petitions interrupted by the Routine of Business will be listed first of such orders of the day on the Notice Paper.

As amended 21 July 2026