



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Public Accounts Committee

Associated Minutes of Proceedings
Annual Report 2023-24

May 2024



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
14th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 33

11.52 pm, Thursday 27 July 2023
Litchfield Room, Level 3, Parliament House

Present:	Mr Joel Bowden MLA, Chair, Member for Johnston Mrs Robyn Lambley MLA, Member for Araluen Mr Brent Potter MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay Mr Bill Yan MLA, Member for Namatjira Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly
Secretariat:	Ms Julia Knight, Committee Secretary Ms Elise Dyer, Senior Research Officer Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr Potter moved and Mr Yan seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 32 of 17 May 2023 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. CHAIR'S DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

Mr Potter moved and Mr Young seconded that:

The Committee adopt the Chair's draft *Annual Report 2022-23* for tabling in the Assembly.

Question put and passed.

3. PETITIONS

Mr Potter moved and Mr Yan seconded that:

Pursuant to Sessional Order 12(2), the Committee notify the Clerk that the Committee recommends that the Assembly debate Petition No. 25.

Question put and passed.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

Committee Work Plan

Mrs Lambley proposed that the Committee's Work Plan be considered at the next meeting and suggested that, consistent with inquiries currently being undertaken in other Australian jurisdictions, the Committee look into the use of consultants by the Northern Territory Government.

The Committee agreed that Members will forward work plan proposals to the Committee Secretary for consideration at the Committee's next meeting scheduled for 1 September 2023.

PAC Membership

Mrs Lambley moved and Mr Yan seconded that:

The Chair write to the Leader of Government Business, Leader of the Opposition and Independent Members, seeking a reinstatement of clause 2 of Standing Order 177 to

provide that the Committee consist of six members – 3 Government and 3 non-Government Members.

Question put and passed.

5. NEXT MEETING

12 noon, Friday 1 September 2023

Meeting closed at 12.08 pm



Joel Bowden MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
14th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 34

10.30 am, Friday 1 September 2023
Litchfield Room, Level 3, Parliament House

Present: Mr Joel Bowden MLA, Chair, Member for Johnston
Mrs Robyn Lambley MLA, Member for Araluen
Mr Brent Potter MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay
Mr Bill Yan MLA, Member for Namatjira
Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly

Secretariat: Ms Julia Knight, Acting First Clerk Assistant
Ms Elise Dyer, Acting Committee Secretary

1. BRIEFING FROM THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

The Auditor-General briefed the Committee on her August 2023 report to the Legislative Assembly.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr Young moved and Mr Yan seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 33 of 27 July 2023 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

3. COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

The Committee considered proposals for the Committee's work plan and agreed that the Chair would work with the committee secretariat to develop terms of reference for an inquiry into Government Owned Corporations.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted.

5. NEXT MEETING

12 noon, Friday 20 October 2023

Meeting closed at 11.43 am

Joel Bowden MLA
Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
14th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
Meeting No. 35

10.30 am, Friday 27 October 2023
Litchfield Room, Level 3, Parliament House

Present: Mr Joel Bowden MLA, Chair, Member for Johnston
Mrs Robyn Lambley MLA, Member for Araluen
Mr Brent Potter MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay
Mr Bill Yan MLA, Member for Namatjira
Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly

Secretariat: Ms Julia Knight, Acting First Clerk Assistant
Ms Elise Dyer, Acting Committee Secretary
Ms Amy Alexander, Administration/Research Officer

1. PRIVATE BRIEFING ON GOVERNMENT OWNED CORPORATIONS

The Committee heard from the following witnesses:

Department of Treasury and Finance

Mr Craig Graham: Under Treasurer

Mr Jason Robertson: Executive Director Economics

Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade

Mr Matthew Sargeant: Director, Office of Sustainable Energy

The witnesses withdrew from the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr Potter moved and Mr Young seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 34 of 1 September 2023 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

3. CONSIDERATION OF GOVERNMENT OWNED CORPORATIONS

The Committee agreed to invite representatives from the Power and Water Corporation, Jacana Energy and Territory Generation to appear before the Committee at a private briefing on Friday 1 December 2023.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted.

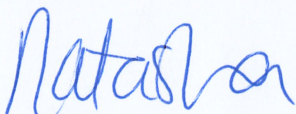
5. PETITIONS

The Committee considered Petition No. 26 and agreed to write to the Minister for Housing and Homelands and request a response to the Petition.

6. NEXT MEETING

Private Briefing: 10.30 am, Friday 1 December 2023

Meeting closed at 11.38 am.


Chair



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
14th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 36

12.00 pm, Wednesday 14 February 2024
Litchfield Room, Level 3, Parliament House

Present: Ms Natasha Fyles MLA, Chair, Member for Nightcliff
Mr Paul Kirby MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Port Darwin
Mrs Robyn Lambley MLA, Member for Araluen
Mrs Nicole Manison MLA, Member for Wanguri
Mr Bill Yan MLA, Member for Namatjira

Secretariat: Ms Julia Knight, Acting First Clerk Assistant
Ms Elise Dyer, Acting Committee Secretary
Ms Amy Alexander, Administration/Research Officer

1. WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Following the discharge of the Member for Johnston, the Hon Joel Bowden MLA, the Member for Fannie Bay, the Hon Brent Potter MLA, and the Member for Daly, the Hon Dheran Young MLA on 31 January 2024, the Committee Secretary welcomed appointment to the Committee of the Member for Nightcliff, Ms Natasha Fyles MLA, Member for Port Darwin, Mr Paul Kirby MLA, and Member for Wanguri, Mrs Nicole Manison MLA.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Following discharge of the former Chair, Member for Johnston, the Hon Joel Bowden MLA, pursuant to Standing Order 186 the Committee Secretary called for nominations for Chair.

Mrs Manison nominated Ms Fyles to be Chair. Mr Kirby seconded the nomination.

Mr Yan nominated Mrs Lambley to be Chair. Mrs Lambley seconded the nomination.

There being more than one nomination, the Committee Secretary conducted a ballot between the Members proposed in accordance with Standing Order 299.

As Ms Fyles received 3 votes and Mrs Lambley received 2 votes, the Committee Secretary declared Ms Fyles to be the Chair.

3. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

Following discharge of the former Deputy Chair, Member for Fannie Bay, the Hon Brent Potter MLA, the Chair called for nominations for Deputy Chair.

Mrs Manison nominated Mr Kirby to be the Deputy Chair. Ms Fyles seconded the nomination.

Mrs Lambley nominated Mr Yan to the Deputy Chair. Mr Yan seconded the nomination.

There being more than one nomination the Committee Secretary conducted a ballot between the Members proposed in accordance with Standing Order 299.

As Mr Kirby received 3 votes and Mr Yan received 2 votes, the Chair declared Mr Kirby to be the Deputy Chair.

4. BRIEFING FROM THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

The Auditor-General briefed the Committee on her November 2023 report.

Following consideration of the Auditor-General's briefing, the Committee agreed to:

- (a) invite the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities to brief the Committee at its meeting scheduled for Wednesday 13 March 2024 on their response to the Auditor-General's qualified opinion on the end of year review; and
- (b) invite the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics to brief the Committee at its next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 13 March 2024 on their response to the Auditor-General's qualified opinion on the asset revaluation audit.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mrs Lambley moved and Mr Yan seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 35 of 27 October 2023 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

From Member for Blain – Prosecutorial Practices in the NT

Ms Fyles moved and Mr Kirby seconded that:

The Chair write to the Member for Blain thanking him for his letter and advising that the matter does not fall within the PAC's remit and that he may wish to refer the matter to the Ombudsman NT.

Question put and passed.

From Minister for Housing and Homelands – Petition No. 26

Mrs Lambley moved and Mr Yan seconded that:

Pursuant to Sessional Order 12(2), the Committee notify the Clerk that the Committee recommends that the Assembly debate Petition No. 26.

Question put and passed.

From Jason Robertson – Response to Question Taken on Notice

Noted.

From Grant Douglas: Adapting for Inertia: Delivering Large Government ICT Projects

Noted – no further action required.

7. CONSIDERATION OF GOVERNMENT OWNED CORPORATIONS

Ms Fyles moved and Mr Yan seconded that:

The Chair write to the Government Owned Corporations thanking them for their preparation of material for the briefing scheduled for 1 December 2023 which unfortunately had to be cancelled, and advise that the Committee has resolved not to consider the matter further.

Question put and passed.

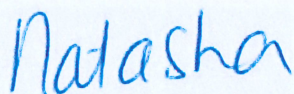
8. PETITIONS

The Committee considered Petition No. 27 and agreed to write to the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics and request a response to the petition for consideration at the Committee's next meeting.

9. NEXT MEETING

12.00 pm, Wednesday 13 March 2024

Meeting closed at 12.41 pm.



**Ms Natasha Fyles MLA
Chair**



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
14th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 37

12.00 pm, Wednesday 13 March 2024
Litchfield Room, Level 3, Parliament House

Present:	Ms Natasha Fyles MLA, Chair, Member for Nightcliff Mr Paul Kirby MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Port Darwin Mrs Robyn Lambley MLA, Member for Araluen Mrs Nicole Manison MLA, Member for Wanguri Mr Bill Yan MLA, Member for Namatjira
Secretariat:	Ms Julia Knight, Acting First Clerk Assistant Ms Elise Dyer, Acting Committee Secretary Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

1. PRIVATE BRIEFING – QUALIFIED OPINION ON END OF YEAR REVIEW

The Committee heard from the following witnesses from the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities:

- Emma White: Chief Executive Officer
- Rachelle McMillan: Acting Chief Financial Officer
- Jared Collins: Executive Director Housing, Market Reform and Programs

The witnesses withdrew.

2. PRIVATE BRIEFING – QUALIFIED OPINION ON ASSET REVALUATION AUDIT

The Committee heard from the following witnesses:

- Andrew Kirkman: Acting Chief Executive Officer, Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet
- Leah Clifford: Acting Chief Executive Officer, Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics
- Fotis Papdakos: Chief Financial Officer, Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics

The witnesses withdrew.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr Yan moved and Mr Kirby seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 36 of 14 February 2024 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted.

It was agreed that Members interested in attending the 17th Biennial ACPAC Conference scheduled for 21-23 April 2024 in Perth should advise the Chair by close of business Friday 15 March 2024.

5. PETITIONS

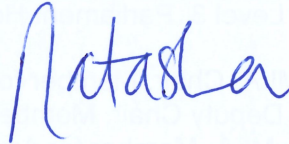
The Committee deferred consideration of Petition Nos. 27 and 28 pending advice from the relevant Ministers.

6. NEXT MEETING

12.00 pm, Thursday 16 May 2024

Meeting closed at 12.50 pm.

Ms Natasha Fyles MLA
Chair





LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
14th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee
DRAFT MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
Meeting No. 38

12.00 pm, Thursday 16 May 2024
Litchfield Room, Level 3, Parliament House

Present: Ms Natasha Fyles MLA, Chair, Member for Nightcliff
Mr Paul Kirby MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Port Darwin
Mrs Robyn Lambley MLA, Member for Araluen
Mrs Nicole Manison MLA, Member for Wanguri
Mr Bill Yan MLA, Member for Namatjira

Secretariat: Ms Julia Knight, Acting First Clerk Assistant
Ms Elise Dyer, Acting Committee Secretary
Mr Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

1. BRIEFING FROM THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

The Auditor-General briefed the Committee on her May 2024 report to the Legislative Assembly.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mrs Manison moved and Mr Yan seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 37 of 13 March 2024 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted.

4. CHAIR'S DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee agreed to adopt the Chair's draft *Annual Report 2023-24* for tabling in the Assembly subject to amendment of the Petitions page and any other comments to be received by the Committee Secretary by 6.00 pm, Thursday 16 May 2024.

5. PETITIONS

The Committee considered Petition Nos 27 – 32 and resolved as follows:

Petition No. 27 – noted

Petition No. 28:

Mrs Lambley moved and Mr Yan seconded that:

Pursuant to Sessional Order 12(2), the Committee notify the Clerk that the Committee recommends that the Assembly debate Petition No. 28.

Question put and passed.

Petition No. 29 – noted

Petition No. 30 – noted

Petition No. 31:

Mr Yan moved and Mrs Lambley seconded that:

Pursuant to Sessional Order 12(2), the Committee notify the Clerk that the Committee recommends that the Assembly debate Petition No. 31.

Question put and passed.

Petition No. 32:

Mr Yan moved and Mrs Lambley seconded that:

Pursuant to Sessional Order 12(2), the Committee notify the Clerk that the Committee recommends that the Assembly debate Petition No. 32

Question put and passed.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Noted

7. NEXT MEETING

To be advised

Meeting closed at 12.48 pm.

Ms Natasha Fyles MLA
Chair