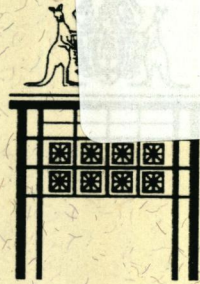


ORIGINAL PAPER

No. *1656*.....

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25.11.1999



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1999

REPORT NUMBER 35

NOVEMBER 1999

Presented and
Ordered to be
printed by the
Legislative
Assembly of the
Northern Territory
on

GOVERNMENT

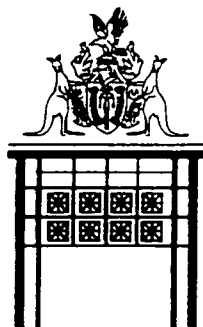
REPORT

2011-12

THIS ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report of the Public Accounts Committee is a document of accountability to the Legislative Assembly, and provides a statement to other interested stakeholders on the Committee's role, structure, responsibilities and activities.

The Public Accounts Committee is required to report annually in accordance with Section 21A of the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory. A summary of activities is also included within the Department of Legislative Assembly annual report for the same reporting year as required by Section 28 of the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1999

REPORT NUMBER 35

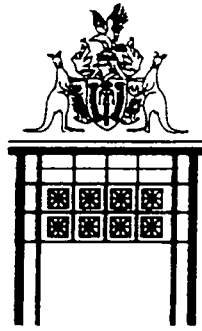
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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1999

REPORT NUMBER 35

NOVEMBER 1999

Members

Mr Chris Lugg, MLA
(Chairman)

Mr John Bailey, MLA

Mr Johan Elferink, MLA

Dr Richard Lim, MLA

Mr Peter Toyne, MLA

Secretariat

Terry Hanley
Secretary to the Committee

Judith Herring
Research Assistant to the Secretary

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Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory
Public Accounts Committee

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GPO Box 3721
DARWIN NT 0801

17 September 1999

The Hon. Terry McCarthy, MLA
Speaker
GPO Box 3721
DARWIN NT 0800

Dear Mr Speaker,

In accordance with the provisions of Section 21A of the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory, I have pleasure in submitting this Annual Report to you on the activities, staffing and operations of the Public Accounts Committee for the financial year ended 30 June 1999.

I advise that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the system of internal control provides reasonable assurance that:

- (a) proper records of all transactions affecting the Public Accounts Committee are kept by the Department of Legislative Assembly and that provisions of the *Financial Management Act*, Treasury Regulations and the Treasurer's Directions have been observed; and
- (b) procedures within the Department ensure a proper control over expenditure and public property of the Public Accounts Committee.

Having regard to the provisions of the aforementioned legislation, I am not aware of any indication of fraud, malpractice, major breach of legislation or delegation, major error in or omission from the accounts and records of the Department of Legislative Assembly, that apply to the Public Accounts Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Eric Poole'.

ERIC POOLE, MLA
CHAIRMAN

Public Accounts Committee

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Public Accounts Committee

CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW

On behalf of the members of the Public Accounts Committee of the Eighth Assembly, I am pleased to present the Thirteenth Annual Report which incorporates activities for 1998-99.

Changes in membership to the Committee during the year saw Mr Hatton and the Chairman, Mr Dunham, replaced by Mr Johan Elferink and Dr Richard Lim.

At the Committee's first deliberate meeting in February 1999, Mr Lugg was appointed Chairman.

The Committee was able to finalise its inquiry into Courts Administration fees and fines, an issue raised by the Auditor-General.

During the same period the Committee received a reference from the Minister for Transport and Works, the Hon. Mr Barry Coulter, MLA to report upon the roles of various funding bodies in the development and maintenance of roads, airstrips and barge landings on Aboriginal communities and outstations in the Northern Territory.

The Committee maintains an ongoing brief to examine the reports of the Auditor-General laid before the Legislative Assembly.

On behalf of the Chairman and members who comprised the Committee during the reporting period, I wish to acknowledge the continued support of the Secretariat during the year.



ERIC POOLE, MLA
CHAIRMAN

PROFILE OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Members of the Public Accounts Committee during the year were:

Hon. Stephen Dunham, MLA - Chairman

Appointed and Elected Chairman 26 November 1997
Discharged 16 February 1999
Country Liberal Party
Member for Drysdale. First elected 1997
Deputy Chairman of Committees
Other Committees: House; Environment

Mr Chris Lugg, MLA - Chairman

Appointed 26 November 1997
Elected Chairman 16 February 1999
Country Liberal Party
Member for Nelson. First elected 1997
Deputy Chairman of Committees
Other Committees: Privileges; Publications

Mr John Bailey, MLA

Appointed 4 December 1990
Australian Labor Party
Member for Wanguri. First elected 1989
Resigned 18 June 1999
Deputy Opposition Leader
Shadow Minister for Treasury; Tourism; Transport and Infrastructure Development;
Ports; AustralAsia Railway and Ethnic Affairs
Other Committees: Standing Orders

Mr Steve Hatton, MLA

Appointed 26 November 1997
Discharged 14 October 1998
Country Liberal Party
Member for Nightcliff. First elected 1983

Dr Richard Lim, MLA

Appointed 16 February 1999
Country Liberal Party
Member for Greatorex. First elected 1994
Other Committees: Territory Food Prices (Chairman), Environment (Chairman)

Mr Peter Toyne, MLA

Appointed 9 October 1996

Australian Labor Party

Member for Stuart. First elected 1996

Shadow Minister for Education and Training; Aboriginal Affairs; Primary Industry, Communications and Advanced Technology; and Corporate and Information Services

Other Committees: Legal and Constitutional Affairs

Mr John Elferink, MLA

Appointed 14 October 1998

Country Liberal Party

Member for Macdonnell. First elected 1997

Deputy Chairman of Committees

Other Committees: Subordinate Legislation and Publications; Legal and Constitutional Affairs

CHARTER

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMITTEE

The Northern Territory Public Accounts Committee was first established by temporary Standing Order 21A of the Legislative Assembly on 18 June 1986. The Committee's status was altered, by way of motion of the Chief Minister on 23 August 1988, from a Sessional Committee on a trial basis only to a Standing Committee of the Parliament (refer to Appendix 1 for current appointments).

As a Committee of the Assembly, its authority is derived from the *Northern Territory (Self Government) Act* (of the Commonwealth) and the *Legislative Assembly (Powers and Privileges) Act* (of the Northern Territory).

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee is required to report to the Legislative Assembly, as per the Terms of Reference (Appendix 2), on an annual basis as well as providing specific reports from time to time to report its proceedings and evidence taken. (Refer Appendix 3 for previous reports of the Committee.)

ACTIVITIES 1998/99

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Committee is comprised of five (5) members, presently three (3) Government and two (2) Opposition members. At the commencement of the 1998/99 financial year, the Committee members were:

Mr Stephen Dunham, MLA – Chairman
Mr John Bailey, MLA
Mr Stephen Hatton, MLA
Mr Chris Lugg, MLA
Mr Peter Toyne, MLA

There were a number of changes to the membership during the financial year and this is reflected throughout Appendix I.

At the conclusion of the 1998/99 year, the Committee comprised:

Mr, Chris Lugg MLA – Chairman
Mr John Bailey, MLA
Mr Johan Elferink, MLA
Dr Richard Lim, MLA
Mr Peter Toyne, MLA

MEETINGS

The Committee met on twelve occasions during the year. Details of these meetings are included on page 18.

	Meetings Attended	Meetings Held while Member
BAILEY, John	12	12
DUNHAM, Stephen	8	9
ELFERINK, Johan	5	6
HATTON, Steve	1	6
LIM, Richard	4	4
LUGG, Chris	11	12
TOYNE, Peter	11	12

REPORTS TABLED

Annual Report Year Ended 30 June 1998 - Report No. 32

This report was tabled on 2 December 1999 and reviewed the activities of the Committee over the previous 12 months.

Auditor-General's Mid Year and End of Financial Year Reports 1995-96 to 1998 – Report No. 33

The Committee completed its inquiry into court fines and fees, an issue raised by the Auditor-General.

CONCLUSIONS

The Committees key conclusions and recommendations flowing from the report were as follows:

1. Every indication given to the Committee is that the current method of enforcing warrant expiation is ineffectual and does not keep pace with the rate of output.
2. As indicated by the Auditor-General in his *End of Financial Year Report* of August 1996, there currently exists an unacceptable level of outstanding fines and fees. In investigating this issue further, the Committee is convinced that the process has been ineffective to date and the additional workload imposed as a result of the introduction of the speed and red light cameras will only compound the problems.
3. The volume of warrant numbers and their monetary value is such that only a coordinated and consistent approach to reducing the level will have any chance of an acceptable level of success.
4. The Committee is of the opinion that a change in structure will be necessary to achieve any level of success in addressing the cost efficiency of the whole process. The option presented by Mr John Flynn of the Office of Courts Administration to create a separate Sheriff's Office is just one avenue that could represent a practical alternative method of operation.
5. The lack of an appropriate "write-off" policy for outstanding fines based on a limit of time associated with the realistic viability of pursuing minor levels of debt would appear to be a major area of deficiency. If an appropriate scheme is to be considered it must also have the flexibility to rely as a basic principle on a common sense approach.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Government acknowledges the fact that despite the Auditor-General's detailed report in 1996 into the level of outstanding debt through unexecuted warrants, there has been no significant reduction in the level of debt.
2. That Government acknowledges the long term impact on the debt collection procedures as a result of the introduction of speed and red light cameras.
3. That Government acknowledges the requirement for an appropriate process of debt collection which addresses the volume of infringement notices within TINES and the cost ineffective use of the Courts and the Police
4. A task force comprising the Attorney-General's Department, the NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services, the Office of Court Administration and the NT Treasury be formed to

consider appropriate strategies to reduce the level of outstanding debt. A number of key issues which will need to be considered include:

- the current use of courts to process infringement notices which are incurred as a result of an executive decision of government. Other States' experiences are that these matters are removed from the court process which is supported by appropriate procedures/strategies and legislation;
 - the possible use of independent units to manage the complete collection process with responsibility for those outcomes based on the philosophy of securing payment early in the process;
 - the introduction of a sustainable policy to recognise the point at which it is no longer financially viable to pursue an outstanding warrant. This policy could include issues such as the age of the warrant, the value and the history of any attempted service details; and
 - the introduction of specific legislation to deal with the issues of increasing fine collection without enforcement action which would result in defaulters going to prison. This particular issue has been debated at length in other States.
5. The task force be responsible for providing status reports to the Minister responsible for the NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services and the Minister responsible for the Office of Court Administration.
6. That consideration be given for the task force to review the appropriateness of current resources to ensure existing procedures will not promote any expansion of the list of outstanding warrants and subsequent level of debt in the interim.

This Report was tabled on 25 February 1999 and can be accessed on the Committee's Internet homepage: <http://www.nt.gov.au/lant/committees/pac/>

CURRENT INQUIRIES

Inquiry into the Roles of Various Funding Bodies in the Development and Maintenance of Roads, Airstrips and Barge Landings on Aboriginal Communities and Outstations in the Northern Territory

On 24 February 1998, the Committee received a reference from the Minister for Transport and Works, the Hon. Mr Barry Coulter, MLA to report upon the roles of various funding bodies in the development and maintenance of roads, airstrips and barge landings on Aboriginal communities and outstations in the Northern Territory

The Committee travelled extensively throughout the Northern Territory to canvas as wide a community group as possible. Hearings were held in Darwin, Alice Springs and Nhulunbuy as well as ten remote Aboriginal communities. The visits to the remote communities provided an opportunity for Committee members to discuss issues with the local government elected members as well as community members

The issues raised and findings of the committee are of such significance that the Executive Summary has been replicated in full within the body of this Annual Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

After evidence had been collected, the Public Accounts Committee agreed that the recommendations formulated in this Report would be underpinned by a set of guiding philosophical beliefs. These beliefs are set out in the preamble to the Report. The broad reference that was given to the Committee requested it to examine the roles of various funding bodies in the development and maintenance of roads, airstrips and barge landings on Aboriginal communities and outstations in the Northern Territory. A number of sub-references addressed specific issues relating to this infrastructure development and these have been dealt with as separate chapters within the report.

Chapter 1

Chapter 1 provides an historical perspective regarding the provision of infrastructure within the Northern Territory and highlights that at the time of Self-Government, the Northern Territory Government (NTG) inherited a significant infrastructure deficit from the Commonwealth. It also addresses the fact that, given the highly dispersed population, harsh environmental conditions and the general remoteness of many of these Aboriginal communities, the provision of services is a significantly more expensive exercise than that encountered in the southern States.

These issues are further complicated by the blurring of the lines of responsibility between the Northern Territory and the Commonwealth Governments regarding the provision of services to its outstation residents due to agreements outlined in the 'Memorandum of Understanding', signed at the time of Self-Government.

Commonwealth funds received by the Northern Territory Government to assist with service provision to all Territorians are determined through relativities calculated by the Commonwealth Grants Commission. These relativities are determined through assessing the standardised expenditure for each State/Territory for the provision of services together with their revenue raising capacity. This allows a multiplier to be calculated that determines the quantum of funding for each State/Territory.

In relation to infrastructure development and maintenance, there are three key agencies:

- the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC);
- the Department of Housing and Local Government (DH&LG). This Department has subsequently been split into the Department of Housing and the Department of Local Government; and
- the Department of Transport and Works (T&W).

Other agencies, both Commonwealth and Northern Territory, also have a lesser role to play in the provision of services and infrastructure, including the Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs (DEETYA) and Northern Territory Employment and Training Authority (NTETA).

Chapter 2

This chapter highlights three major issues that were identified during the course of the Public Accounts Committee's deliberations. These issues became recurring themes as the sub-references were being addressed.

Intergovernmental responsibilities were not clear, primarily as a result of the 'Memorandum of Understanding' and the variety of interpretations placed on the document by stakeholders. This has led to a significant level of duplication in service provision by the Commonwealth Government and NTG that has precipitated a significant dilution of funding available to the Aboriginal people within the Territory. The most notable examples of duplication existed between local governing bodies on many communities often competing with resource centres for funding, to provide services to essentially the same group of people.

The thrust of the recommendations in this area are for the establishment of an overarching agreement identifying the respective responsibilities of the Commonwealth Government and NTG in relation to the provision of services to all Aboriginal residents.

The coordination of funding providers and service deliverers is also seen as critical if more effective service delivery mechanisms are to be implemented. The focus here is on the establishment and maintenance of information flows between NTG agencies to ensure maximum benefit is achieved through the coordination of contracted work and the packaging of work on communities to achieve greater economies of scale.

The proliferation of local governing bodies and their current structure is considered by the Committee to be counter productive to many outcomes which are desirable for more effective and efficient service provision. A large number of the existing councils are small, have limited expertise and are heavily grant dependent because there is little or no capacity to raise revenue or establish economies of scale.

Chapter 3

Chapter 3 addresses Term of Reference 1(a) 'The 1993 decision of the Commonwealth to transfer local roads responsibility and funds to community government, and the impact of that decision'.

The Territory was included as a grant recipient for the receipt of road funding from 1980/81, with part of the funds formerly incorporated within the Commonwealth's Northern Territory budget being identified as road grants.

The NTG, prior to a decision taken at a 1990 Special Premiers' Meeting, was responsible for all roads within the Territory. This 1990 decision effectively removed the NTG's responsibility for approximately 8,000 kms of roads, primarily located on Aboriginal land and placed it with the established local governing bodies. Associated Commonwealth funding was also provided directly to those bodies. While the Committee can understand the logic in making this decision, it has concluded that it was not in the best interests of the Northern Territory nor its Aboriginal constituents.

Some of the major areas of concern that have arisen as a result of the direct road funding decision included

- appropriateness of the current funding arrangements in the Northern Territory context;
- lack of technical and financial expertise on many communities to manage the responsibility;
- lack of clarity on the legal responsibility and liability relating to local road maintenance on Aboriginal land;
- accountability issues due to the untied nature of the funding;
- erosion of the capacity to achieve economies of scale;
- a revenue issue, as government funding is insufficient to adequately maintain the road network, however there is little capacity for own source revenue;
- lack of coordination within all spheres of government to maximise resource utilisation relating to infrastructure provision;
- transfer of appropriate funding when responsibility for particular community infrastructure is transferred from one sphere of government to another; and
- Commonwealth recognition of the financial issues associated with a rapidly expanding and upgraded road network, much of which has been developed as a result of the Commonwealth Government's outstations policy.

The Committee identified a number of major concerns. The quantum of funds provided by the Commonwealth Government under this arrangement is inadequate, as it doesn't recognise the rapidly expanding local road network, the lack of own source revenue available to councils and the harsh conditions of the Territory environment. All of these seriously impair a councils' ability to fulfil the responsibilities that have been given to them.

The arrangements have seriously eroded any previous economies of scale that were created through a centralised system of road maintenance and, there are serious concerns regarding the issue of cost shifting between the two spheres of government.

Chapter 4

Chapter 4 addresses Term of Reference 1(b) 'The impact of ATSIC decisions to allocate capital funding to communities for infrastructure development, with no financial provision for ongoing maintenance'

From the outset, the Committee had concerns regarding the wording of this particular Term of Reference as it clearly implies that ATSIC allocates capital funding to communities with no ongoing provision for maintenance of these capital assets. While there are clearly examples of this happening, there is also a substantial amount of money being provided for ongoing operational or maintenance costs of outstations and some major communities.

ATSIC has, for the past 20 years, actively supported the homelands/outstation movement in the interests of promoting the preservation and enhancement of cultural values, improved health outcomes and social well-being. The support and facilitation of this migration has raised a number of complex policy issues relating to the provision of housing and infrastructure. The development, planning and funding of outstations has been, at times, a major bone of contention between ATSIC and the various State and Territory Governments.

The Committee has noted with interest that the national commitment to improved outcomes for ATSI (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) people has been advanced in a marginal manner. The national commitment to improved conditions in the delivery of programs and services for ATSI people originally envisaged that guidelines would be established and agreed for the planning and provision of services based on factors such as community size and location, availability of natural resources, etc. It is clear to the Committee that while some work in this area has been achieved, there is still a long way to go to get general consensus on the service delivery issue.

The diversion of funds for outstation development and ongoing maintenance is clearly a sensitive issue, particularly with the NTG. It is apparent that in some areas the establishment of a number of small, often single family, outstations has diverted both Commonwealth and Territory funds from the larger communities to the disadvantage of the majority of Aboriginal people. This has occurred principally because of the lack of an agreed policy on the establishment of outstations between the Commonwealth and State/Territory Governments and ATSIC, and because of the differing priorities of the ATSIC regional councils and State/Territory agencies responsible for service provision.

One overwhelming fact that came to light during the course of this Inquiry was the level of duplication of both capital equipment, infrastructure, and service provision which was evident as a result of many communities having two service providers operating within their boundaries. These providers being the local government authorities and resource centres.

One of the Committee's greatest concerns regarding the establishment of homeland communities is that they appear to be established in relative isolation, where there should be far stronger linkages between outstation development and the base community to which it is associated. Compounding this is the evidence that decisions to fund community infrastructure on homeland communities often does not include arrangements for consultation and coordination with other key stakeholders.

Chapter 5

Chapter 5 addresses Term of Reference 1(c) 'The capacity of communities to plan for and execute infrastructure maintenance projects'

There is no doubt that appropriate planning can significantly advance the social, economic and cultural development of Aboriginal people and their respective communities. The issue has always been how best to plan and articulate those plans so all community members have input and therefore ownership of their future.

It is clear that there are two elements to the planning issue. The first is the community's capacity to plan, articulate those plans in a manner that is understood by all stakeholders, and, perhaps most importantly, implement the plans effectively. Secondly, the NTG and the respective arms of the Commonwealth Government have to endeavour to assist not only in the planning process where

appropriate, but also in the realisation of the planning outcomes through a greater targeted delivery of services and resources.

It would appear that there are a number of impediments to appropriate and effective community-based planning at present. These include:

- appropriate timeframes and processes for planning facilitation;
- appropriate roles and training for staff and consultants assisting communities with planning;
- training of community leaders; and
- the need to integrate planning with funding to ensure plans are achievable.

As government agencies are often the catalyst for community planning initiatives, it is imperative that they work in a constructive and coordinated manner. In order for any planning outcome to be successful and realise stated outcomes, there needs to be a spirit of cooperation between the community and the other stakeholders. These stakeholders are primarily the various levels of government and the Land Councils. Unfortunately, there is evidence that the competing agendas of the various agencies and organisations can be counter-productive in the achievement of the stated aims and aspirations of many communities.

Issues that need to be addressed in this area to improve planning outcomes include:

- fostering a greater degree of cooperation and coordination between the various agencies that impact on community development;
- the achievement of a more unified and collaborative approach to funding in line with accepted community plans; and
- the maximisation of community employment and training opportunities that may arise from community project work in line with these plans.

Chapter 6

Chapter 6 addresses Term of Reference 1(d) 'Whether the existing criteria adopted for the allocation of funds by funding providers takes appropriate account of population, potential utilisation of the infrastructure and the comparative economic and social needs of each community'.

There are a multitude of funding providers that assist with the development and maintenance of transport infrastructure on Aboriginal communities. These include:

- the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission,
- the National Office of Local Government,
- the NT Department of Local Government,

- the NT Department of Housing; and
- the NT Department of Transport and Works.

The Committee, during the course of this Review, identified four concerns that it felt should be addressed:

1. The local road funding contribution received from the Commonwealth on an annual basis should be reviewed with regard to equity for the Northern Territory. Given the origins of this funding, it is not possible to make an accurate assessment as to whether the original allocation was appropriate for the Territory. What has been highlighted however, was that the assumption on which the \$4.1m was determined is clearly erroneous, as it was based on those roads located on Aboriginal land that were being maintained by T&W at that time. These roads, in fact, were not reflective of the local road network that was identified over the following two years by the NT Grants Commission.

Compounding this concern is the fact that the majority of councils for whom this funding is intended have a limited or non-existent rate base to provide a source of supplementary funding for road maintenance purposes.

2. While the Northern Territory Grants Commission road funding methodology was found to be adequate, it was suggested that recognition of additional factors such as road usage, access disadvantage and weighting roads on expected standard rather than actual road type may provide greater equity between councils.

3. The allocation of the financial assistance grants has always been an enigma and a source of continual frustration for the NTG and the local government industry. The Commonwealth, through the National Office of Local Government (NOLG), allocating approximately \$833m on a per capita basis to the States and Territories, with no recognition for the relative cost of providing local government services between the various jurisdictions. On the other hand, under Commonwealth legislation, the respective Grants Commissions are required to allocate these funds on a needs basis to the respective councils.

This issue was addressed at the 1994 Local Government Ministers' Conference without success. The Committee is of the opinion it should be thoroughly researched by Treasury and if this research highlights a nett disadvantage to the Northern Territory through the current distribution mechanism, then further attempts to seek an interstate redistribution of this funding should be pursued.

4. Submission-based funding is widely practiced by ATSIC and DEETYA, but requires urgent and critical examination. It is counter to any reasonable interpretation of social justice that Aboriginal organisations are compelled to make submissions to grant bodies for basic citizenship entitlements. Under present arrangements, each community must bid against every other community, each region against region and each State against State. Funding decisions rely largely upon the judgement of the decision-making body and the politics within it.

This often denies communities any predictability of funding and is counter to the principle of community planning as there is little evidence to suggest that the assessment of such submission takes any cognisance of existing community plans.

Chapter 7

Chapter 7 addresses Term of Reference 1(e) 'Strategies that could support funding consolidation and mutual cooperation from the principal participants, leading to a more effective and equitable allocation and application of funds'.

Governments recognise that a variety of organisational structures have developed or been adapted by Aboriginal people to deliver a range of services, including local government type services to Aboriginal communities. These structures include community councils, resource centres, Aboriginal land councils, cooperatives, and other bodies incorporated under Commonwealth, State and Territory legislation as councils or associations. Despite the proliferation of such organisations, there has been minimal advancement in the provision of services to Aboriginal people.

The major factors contributing to this are the confusion regarding the respective responsibilities of the Commonwealth and the Northern Territory Governments and the divergent views regarding the appropriateness of local government being a major service and infrastructure provider on communities.

There are a number of strategies that would enhance the delivery of services to Aboriginal people:

- brokerage of appropriate bilateral agreements with the Commonwealth where duplication or overlap of responsibilities is evident or, if appropriate, consideration of the expansion of the current responsibilities of the Indigenous Housing Authority of the Northern Territory (IHANT);
- reform of the current local government structure in the Northern Territory with the promotion of larger, more sustainable councils; constitutional recognition of traditional decision-making; transparent planning and financial reporting; and the training of more competent elected members and council staff;
- the promotion of the local area planning concept which can later be formalised through the development of regional plans. This would facilitate the establishment of strong social and economic links with neighbouring communities that are critical in order to provide a secure basis for the continued progression of community development principles;
- increased use of information technology in the more remote areas of the Northern Territory as the benefits from the Regional Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund (RTIF) become evident; and
- the placement of greater emphasis on the issues of performance monitoring and accountability on service providers to Aboriginal communities.

Chapter 8

Chapter 8 addresses Term of Reference 1(f) 'Strategies capitalising on the training and employment opportunities implicit in infrastructure development and maintenance projects undertaken on Aboriginal communities'.

The generation of employment and economic opportunities in Aboriginal communities has many major obstacles as they are frequently remote, have poor infrastructure, and few marketable economic advantages. Many are still in a situation of social flux due the emergence of the outstation movement and the slow process of regaining traditional lands. Notwithstanding this, the importance of infrastructure and infrastructure development cannot be understated and, given the current infrastructure deficit inherited at the time of Self-Government, the rectification of these situations has the potential to provide significant employment and training opportunities.

The challenge for the NTG and Aboriginal people is to make the most of these opportunities. There are a number of strategies that should be considered to improve the current situation. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- on-the-job training;
- development of Aboriginal enterprises;
- Community Development Employment Scheme; and
- implementation of low technology projects.

On-the-job Training

There is little doubt that, given the remoteness of many Aboriginal communities, the most appropriate and cost effective method of training is provided on the job where residents can remain on their communities in an environment that is most conducive to their education. There is considerable scope to further Aboriginal enterprise by Territory agencies promoting and assisting with on-the-job training, dwelling construction and maintenance teams, and essential service operators. Some successful initiatives have been implemented in this area but coordination of the effort of agencies with training authorities is necessary to ensure that trainees obtain recognised qualifications that enable them to extend their activities into the wider community.

Development of Aboriginal Enterprises

Promotion and support of Aboriginal enterprise projects are uncoordinated and characterised by a number of Commonwealth and State programs directed toward the same end. There is a need to develop a more coordinated approach with collaboration between economic development agencies on initial screening and evaluation, funding, on-going support, monitoring and accountability processes.

There are essentially two ingredients for the establishment of successful enterprises on Aboriginal communities. The first is a dedication and commitment to the venture by community residents and the second is the provision of establishment funding. One source of funding that should be thoroughly investigated is the Aboriginals Benefit Reserve (ABR).

A further option, with the advent of native title, would be to consider the injection of resources into similar activities through the negotiation of native title compensation. These activities could include the upgrading of community infrastructure, purchase of business enterprises, etc. The precedent for this type of negotiation has already been set by the Jawoyn people in the Katherine region who are negotiating the waiver of their native title rights essentially in return for the development of a community infrastructure within the region.

Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) Scheme

There is little doubt that the most important employment initiative in major communities in recent years has been the implementation of CDEP. This scheme, amongst other things, has given the participating communities the capacity to allow local communities to tender competitively for contracts by using CDEP subsidised labour to undercut competitors.

As there has been an extensive review of the CDEP Scheme recently by Mr Ian Spicer, it is not the Committee's intention to conduct its own review of the effectiveness of the scheme in this Report. However, there were a number of concerns regarding the scheme that were relayed to the Committee during the course of its travels which require further investigation. These concerns were basically associated with the aspects of eligibility and allocation of the available financial resources.

Implementation of Low Technology Projects

One area that does not appear to be utilised to its potential is the deployment of labour intensive, low technology initiatives for the advancement of communities. It is accepted that on the majority of communities the potential labour force is significant, particularly where CDEP is in operation. It would appear from the Committee's investigation that appropriate use of this largely untapped resource is rarely utilised.

Dissenting Report

A dissenting report by Mr Peter Toyne, MLA was included as an attachment to the main report. While Mr Toyne supported the bulk of the context of the majority report and recommendations, he considered it necessary to redress what he perceived to be a pro-government bias on certain politically sensitive issues.

The three areas covered by Mr Toyne in his dissenting report comprised:

- a) Uncritical reference to the recommendations of the Reeves review;
- b) Failure to state alternative models for local government reform; and
- c) Failure to reach a fair and balanced view on Outstations, Home Land Centres.

The report was tabled during the August Sittings and can be accessed on the Committee's Internet homepage: <http://www.nt.gov.au/lant/committees/pac/>

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND TRAINING

The Secretary accompanied the Clerk to a conference "Government and Business: Integrity and Accountability" held in Brisbane on 12 February 1999.

AUSTRALASIAN COUNCIL OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES (ACPAC)

Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees 5th Biennial Conference, 22 February 1999, Perth

Mr Chris Lugg, MLA, Chairman, and Mr Terry Hanley, Secretary to the Committee, represented the Committee at the Biennial Conference

Topics discussed included:

- Competitive Tendering and Contracting out of Government Services
- Commercial Confidentiality – Striking the Balance
- Corporate Law Economic Reform Legislation – Review of Accounting Standards Setting in Australia
- Audit Legislation – Trends in Australia

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Annual Report Awards

The Committee continues to provide support and sponsorship to the Northern Territory Public Sector Annual Report Awards co-sponsored by Panel Kerr Forster (Chartered Accountants) and the Northern Territory Division of Royal Institute of Public Administration Australia.

Mr Chris Lugg represented the Committee in the adjudication process for the 1999 awards. These awards were announced in May 1999 at a presentation ceremony held at the Plaza Hotel, Darwin.

A total of 31 entries were received for the 1999 awards. Awards are chosen by consensus decision of the Adjudication Panel with the overall winner being selected from among Award of Excellence winners only and decided by a majority vote.

A highlight of the awards was a “first occasion” announcement of the joint overall winners of the Department of Sport and Recreation and the Department of Transport and Works.

Awards of Excellence and Awards of Merit were awarded to:

Award of Excellence	Award of Merit
Department of Sport and Recreation	Darwin Port Authority
Department of Transport & Works	Department of Housing and Local Government
Territory Health Services	Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Services
Work Health Authority	Northern Territory Correctional Services
	Northern Territory Government and Public Authorities
	Superannuation Scheme
	Northern Territory Tourist Commission

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS

No.	Date	Type of Meeting	Reference Organisation Represented	Witness
5	6.7.98	Public Hearings	Inquiry into the Roles of Various Funding Bodies in the Development and Maintenance of Roads, Airstrips and Barge Landings on Aboriginal Communities and Outstations in the Northern Territory	<p>Mr Anthony Petrick, Chairman Mr John Hayes, Council Clerk <i>Arltarlpilta Community Government Council</i> Harts Range</p> <p>Mr Allan Jones, Council Clerk Mr Peter Melville <i>Watiyawamu Community Government Council</i> Mt Liebig</p> <p>Mr Nick Oliver, Council Clerk Mrs Perina Oliver <i>Areyonga Community Inc.</i> Areyonga</p>
	7.7.98	Public Hearings	Inquiry into the Roles of Various Funding Bodies in the Development and Maintenance of Roads, Airstrips and Barge Landings on Aboriginal Communities and Outstations in the Northern Territory	<p>Mr Brendan Prendergast, Council Clerk and Members of the <i>Anmatjere Community Government Council</i>, Ti Tree</p> <p>Mr Peter Gunner, Chairman Mr Kenny Club, Vice Chairman Mr Brian Chandler, Council Clerk Messrs Louis Pula, Ray Loy, Donny Young, Harold Nelson, Jack Club and George Rumble, Councillors of the <i>Urapuntja Aboriginal Council Inc.</i> Mr George Club, <i>Community Police</i>, Utopia</p> <p>Mr Bernie Heare, Council Clerk Mr Jack Wallace, Councillor <i>Ltyentye Purte Community Government Council</i> Santa Teresa</p>
	8.7.98	Public Hearing	Inquiry into the Roles of Various Funding Bodies in the Development and Maintenance of Roads, Airstrips and Barge Landings on Aboriginal Communities and Outstations in the Northern Territory	<p>Department of Housing and Local Government, Local Government Division, Alice Springs</p>

Public Accounts Committee

<i>No.</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Type of Meeting</i>	<i>Reference Organisation Represented</i>	<i>Witness</i>
				Mr Ross McDougall, A/Deputy State Manager Mr Michael Lane, Manager, ABR Mr Gerry Thomas, NAHS Coordinator <i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission</i> Darwin
8	16.10.98	Public Hearing	Inquiry into the Roles of Various Funding Bodies in the Development and Maintenance of Roads, Airstrips and Barge Landings on Aboriginal Communities and Outstations in the Northern Territory	Mr Ken Clarke, Under Treasurer Ms Jennifer Prince, Deputy Under Treasurer Ms Catherine Wauchope, Director Public Finance <i>Northern Territory Treasury</i> Darwin
		Private Briefing	Auditor-General's Reports	Mr Iain Summers, Auditor General <i>Office of the Auditor-General</i> Darwin
9	1.12.98	Deliberative		
10	16.2.99	Deliberative		
11	28.4.99	Deliberative		
12	8.6.99	Private Briefing	Auditor-General's Reports	Mr Iain Summers, Auditor General <i>Office of the Auditor-General</i> Darwin
13	10.6.99	Deliberate		

ADMINISTRATION AND STAFFING

Secretariat

Staffing for the Public Accounts Committee Secretariat is provided by the Department of the Legislative Assembly.

The Committee currently has a full-time secretary who is supported by a Research Assistant.

Staff as at 30 June 1999:

Secretary	-	Mr Terry Hanley
Research Assistant	-	Mrs Judy Herring

Mr Peter Thornton, an officer within the Office of Aboriginal Development was seconded to the Public Accounts Committee as a consultant during the inquiry into the Roles of Various Funding Bodies in the Development and Maintenance of Roads, Airstrips and Barge Landings on Aboriginal Communities and Outstations in the Northern Territory.

Parliamentary Hansard staff provide a transcribing and editing service for all Public Accounts Committee transcripts.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

30 JUNE 1999

MEMBERS STATEMENT

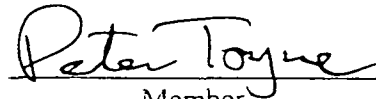
The accompanying financial statements have been based on proper accounts and records of the Department of Legislative Assembly and have been drawn up so as to present a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the Public Accounts Committee for the financial year ended 30 June 1999.

In our opinion, the prescribed requirements in respect of the establishment and keeping of accounts have been complied with in all material aspects, and we are not aware of any circumstances which would render the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

Dated at Darwin, Northern Territory, this 22 day of NOVEMBER 1999.



Chairman
Public Accounts Committee



Member
Public Accounts Committee

1998/99 EXPENSES BY STANDARD CLASSIFICATION

Actual 1998	Category of Cost Standard Classification	Actual 1999
108 063	PERSONNEL COSTS	96 555
Nil	Fringe Benefits Tax	Nil
852	Higher Duties	Nil
1 348	Leave Loading	1 300
85	Other Allowances	81
45	Overtime	527
12 388	Payroll Tax	6 659
Nil	Recreation Leave Fares	Nil
93 345	Salaries	87 988
19 407	OPERATIONAL COSTS	40 982
300	Advertising	Nil
637	Communications	1 450
Nil	Consultants Fees	225
753	Consumables/General Expenses	993
462	Document Production	1 470
328	Entertainment	239
Nil	Freight	Nil
Nil	Furniture and Fittings	Nil
672	General Equipment and Machines	1 059
9 853	Information Technology Services	15 045
18	Library Services	376
Nil	Office Requisites and Stationery	374
4 326	Official Duty Fares	14 755
190	Training and Study Expenses	1 421
772	Transport/Vehicles	650
1 096	Travelling Allowance	2 925
127 470	TOTAL EXPENSES	137 537

This is not an audited statement.

EMPLOYEES ENTITLEMENTS OUTSTANDING
as at 30 June 1999

1998	Entitlement	1999
1 548	Leave Loading	2 639
20 359	Recreation Leave	22 462
20 251	Long Service Leave	23 503
42 158	TOTAL	48 604

This is not an audited statement.

BASIS OF CALCULATIONS

1. Leave Loading
Entitlements are the value of actual leave loading.
2. Recreation Leave
Entitlements are calculated using employee's nominal designation and salary rate for days of credited leave.
3. Long Service Leave
Entitlements are calculated using employee's nominal designation and salary rate for years of service.

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the reporting period ended 30 June 1999**

1. Accounting Entity

The Public Accounts Committee is a sub program of administration of the Department of the Legislative Assembly. The Agency is wholly funded by annual Parliamentary appropriations and maintains an on-going dependency on these appropriations.

2. Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of accounting

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with Part 2, Section 5 of the Treasurer's Directions. The accounting records have been kept on a cash basis and reflect actual cash outflows during the financial year.

All amounts in the Committee's financial report are rounded to the nearest dollar and are expressed in Australian currency.

(b) Appropriation

Parliamentary appropriations have not been recognised as revenue during the reporting period.

(c) Authority

Payments have been made under the Authority of the *Appropriation Act* and the Authority of the Treasurer's Warrant.

(d) Funding

Funds for Committee activities are provided by the Department of Legislative Assembly. Provision of salary and administrative activities are appropriated by the Parliament to the Assembly Services (Activity), Committees (Program) within the budget appropriated to the Department of Legislative Assembly. The Public Accounts Committee was one of twelve Standing, Sessional and Select Committees that received funds from this program. A notional budget is provided each year for these committees. The notional budget for the Public Accounts Committee was \$171 200 in 1998/99 (\$152 334 in 1997/98).

(e) Income Tax

The Public Accounts Committee as part of the administration of the Department of Legislative Assembly is a public authority within the meaning of Section 23(d) of the *Income Assessment Act* and its income is exempt under the provisions of that Act. However, the Department of Legislative Assembly and the Public Accounts Committee is subject to Fringe Benefits Tax.

Public Accounts Committee

- (f) The Committee does not operate any Trust Accounts.
- (g) There were no material Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable or authorised Write-offs and Waivers as at 30 June 1998.
- (h) Committee Members' Remuneration

The Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee receives an allowance for services as presiding officer of the Committee. In accordance with Remuneration Tribunal Determination 1/98, effective 29 October 1998, this allowance was set at \$15 108 per annum.

This allowance is met directly from the Department of Legislative Assembly budget. Other sitting members do not receive an allowance.

- (i) Services received at no cost from the Northern Territory Government/ Department of Legislative Assembly

The Committee as a sub program of the Department of Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory Government received the following services which have not been costed to the Committee:

- Rent of premises
- Electricity
- Briefings provided by employees of the Northern Territory Government
- Superannuation contributions
- Members' salary for sitting days
- Superannuation contributions in respect of employees' contributions
- Office cleaning
- Office security
- Payroll services and cheque production services provided by NT Treasury
- Accounting fees for services provided by Department of Legislative Assembly

APPENDICES

Public Accounts Committee

APPENDIX 1**MEMBERSHIP OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

MEMBER	PERIOD	STATUS
Adamson, Mr P F	28 Nov 1996 – 12 Aug 1987	Member
Bailey, Mr J D	4 Dec 1990 - 17 May 1994 27 Jun 1994 – 12 Aug 1997 26 Nov 1997 - *	Member Member
Braham, Mrs L M	27 Jun 1994 - 28 Nov 1996 28 Nov 1996 - 12 Aug 1987	Member Chairman
Burke, Mr D.G.	23 Aug 1994 - 15 Aug 1995	Member
Dondas, Mr N M	23 Aug 1988 - 10 Oct 1989	Member
Dunham, Mr S	26 Nov 1997 – 16 Feb 1999	Chairman
Collins, Mr R L	20 Aug 1986 - 16 Feb 1987	Member
Ede, Mr B R	28 Apr 1987 - 23 Aug 1988 23 Aug 1988 - 5 Oct 1990 27 Jun 1994 - 23 Aug 1996	Member Member Member
Elferink, Mr J	14 Oct 1998 - *	Member
Hatton, Mr S	26 Nov 1997 – 14 Oct 1998	Member
Harris, Mr T	7 May 1987 - 17 May 1988	Member
Leo, Mr D M	18 Jun 1986 - 16 Feb 1987 28 Apr 1987 - 23 Aug 1988 23 Aug 1988 - 5 Oct 1990	Member Member Member
Lim, Dr R S H	28 Nov 1996 – 12 Aug 1997 16 Feb 1999 - *	Member
Lugg, Mr C	26 Nov 1997 – 15 Feb 1999 16 Feb 1999 - *	Member Chairman
McCarthy, Mr T R	28 Apr 1987 - 7 May 1987 24 Aug 1993 - 17 May 1994	Member Member
Mitchell, Mr P A	15 Aug 1995 - 28 Nov 1996	Member

Public Accounts Committee

MEMBER	PERIOD	STATUS
Palmer, Mr M J	18 Jun 1986 - 16 Feb 1997	Member
	28 Apr 1987 - 30 April 1987	Member
	30 April 1987 - 23 August 1988	Chairman
	23 Aug 1988 - 5 Oct 1990	Chairman
	4 Dec 1990 - 17 May 1994	Chairman
	27 June 1994 - 23 August 1994	Chairman
Parish, Mr K A	25 Feb 1992 - 17 May 1994	Member
Perron, Mr M B	18 Jun 1986 - 16 Feb 1987	Chairman
Poole, Mr E H	28 Apr 1987 - 17 May 1988	Member
	10 Oct 1989 - 5 Oct 1990	Member
	4 Dec 1990 - 4 Mar 1993	Member
Reed, Mr M A	17 May 1988 - 16 Aug 1988	Member
Setter, Mr R A	17 May 1988 - 23 Aug 1988	Member
	23 Aug 1988 - 5 Oct 1990	Member
	4 Dec 1990 - 17 May 1994	Member
	27 June 1994 - 25 Aug 1994	Member
	25 Aug 1995 - 28 Nov 1996	Chairman
Smith, Mr T E	18 Jun 1986 - 20 Aug 1986	Member
Stirling, Mr S J	4 Dec 1990 - 25 Feb 1992	Member
Toyne, Mr P H	28 November 1996 - 12 Aug 1997	Member
	26 Nov 1997 - *	
Tuxworth, Mr I L	18 Jun 1986 - 16 Feb 1987	Member
Vale, Mr R W S	4 Mar 1993 - 24 Aug 1993	Member

* Member for financial year 30 June 1998 - 30 June 1999

NOTES:

The Public Accounts Committee was established by provisional Standing Order 21A to operate on a trial basis as a Sessional Order on 18 June 1986.

Pursuant to a resolution of the Assembly on 23 August 1988, the status of the Public Accounts changed from a Provisional Standing Committee to a Standing Committee.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

STANDING ORDER 21A PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

21A¹ PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

- (1) A Standing Committee of Public Accounts to consist of five members shall be appointed at the commencement of each Assembly.
- (2) The Duties of the committee shall be –
 - (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* and the *Audit Act*;
 - (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; and
 - (e) to examine the reports of the Auditor-General tabled in the Legislative Assembly with the accounts of an Agency of the Northern Territory, including any documents annexed or appended to those reports, pursuant to the *Audit Act*.
- (3) The committee shall examine only those accounts of receipts and expenditure of the Northern Territory and reports of the Auditor-General for financial years commencing after 30 June 1986 provided that this shall not prevent the consideration by the committee of matters included in reports of the Auditor-General for the year ending 30 June 1986 which have or may have a continuing effect on the form of the public accounts, the method of receipt, control, issue or payment of public moneys
- (4) Prior to determining whether to undertake an inquiry into any matter which may have arisen in connection with the public accounts of the Northern Territory, pursuant to paragraphs (2)(a) and (e), with the concurrence of the committee, the Chairman is empowered to write to the Chief Executive Officer of the relevant agency for a report on the matter

Public Accounts Committee

- (5) The Committee shall 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 in connection therewith may be referred to the Assembly for determination.
- (6) The committee shall elect a Government Member as Chairman.
- (7) The Chairman of the Committee may, from time to time, appoint a member of the committee to be the Deputy Chairman of the Committee and the Member so appointed shall act as Chairman of the Committee at any time when there is no Chairman or when the Chairman is not present at a meeting of the committee.
- (8) In the event of an equality of voting, the Chairman, or the Deputy Chairman when acting as Chairman, shall have a casting vote.
- (9) The committee shall have power to appoint sub-committees and to refer to any such sub-committee any matter which the Committee is empowered to examine.
- (10) Three Members of the committee shall constitute a quorum of the committee and two Members of a sub-committee shall constitute a quorum of the sub-committee.
- (11) The committee or any sub-committee shall have power to send for persons, papers and records, to adjourn from place to place, to meet and transact business in public or private session and to sit during any adjournment of the Assembly.
- (12) The committee shall be empowered to print from day to day such papers and evidence as may be ordered by it and, unless otherwise ordered by the committee, a daily *Hansard* shall be published of such proceedings of the committee as take place in public.
- (13) The committee may proceed to the dispatch of business notwithstanding that all Members have not been appointed and notwithstanding any vacancy.
- (14) The committee shall report annually and shall have leave to report from time to time and to report its proceedings and evidence taken; and any Member of the committee shall have power to add a protest or dissent to any Report.
- (15) Unless otherwise ordered by the committee, all documents received by the committee during its inquiry shall remain in the custody of the Assembly: provided that, on the application of a department or person, any document, if not likely to be further required, may, in the Speaker's discretion, be returned to the department or person from whom it was obtained.
- (16) The committee shall be provided with all necessary staff, facilities and resources and shall be empowered, with the approval of the Speaker, to appoint persons with specialist knowledge for the purposes of the committee.

APPENDIX 3**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE REPORTS**

No.	Title	Date Tabled
1	Annual Report - Year Ended 30 June 1987	September 1987
2	Report on the Actual & Contingent Liabilities of the Northern Territory Government	November 1987
3	Report on the Auditor-General's Annual Reports 1985/86	May 1988
4	Report on Accelerated Year End Spending	May 1988
5	Annual Report - Year Ended 30 June 1988	August 1988
6	Report on Public Administration Recurrent Expenditure (Waste Watch)	October 1988
7	Report on the Auditor-General's Annual Reports 1986/87	May 1989
8	Report on Aero-Medical Contract	May 1989
9	Annual Report - Year Ended 30 June 1989	November 1989
10	Second Report on the Actual and Contingent Liabilities of the Northern Territory Government	February 1991
11	Annual Report - Year Ended 30 June 1990	February 1991
12	Report on the Auditor-General's Annual Reports 1987/88 and 1988/89	May 1991
13	Annual Report - Year Ended 30 June 1991	October 1991
14	Report on 1990 Election Costs	November 1991
15	Report on Biennial Conference of PAC - Darwin May 1991	November 1991
16	Report on the Auditor-General's Report 1989/90	May 1992
17	Annual Report Year Ended 30 June 1992	October 1992
18	Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees - Mid Term Meeting held Monday 20th July 1992	November 1992
19	Report on the Purchase, Operation and Sale of Dalway Pty Ltd	March 1993
20	Annual Report Year Ended 30 June 1993	August 1993

Public Accounts Committee

No.	Title	Date Tabled
21	Report on the Auditor-General's Annual Reports 1990-91 and 1991-92	April 1994
22	Annual Report Year Ended 30 June 1994	October 1994
23	Annual Report Year Ended 30 June 1995	October 1995
24	Report on the Auditor-General's Annual Report 1992-93	October 1995
25	Second Report on the Auditor-General's Annual Report 1992-93	November 1995
26	Internal Audit in the Northern Territory Public Sector	November 1995
27	Provision of School Education Services for Remote Aboriginal Communities in the Northern Territory	August 1996
28	Provision of Health Services to Aboriginal Communities in the Northern Territory	November 1996
29	Annual Report Year Ended 30 June 1996	November 1996
30	Report on the Auditor-General's Annual and Mid Year Reports 1993/94 and 1994/95	February 1997
31	Annual Report Year Ended 30 June 1997	February 1998
32	Annual Report Year Ended 30 June 1998	December 1998
33	Report on the Auditor-General's Mid Year and End of Financial Year Reports 1995-96 and 1998 - Inquiry into Fees, Fines and Outstanding Debts	February 1999
34	Inquiry into the Roles of Various Funding Bodies in the Development and Maintenance of Roads, Airstrips and Barge Landings on Aboriginal Communities and Outstations in the Northern Territory	August 1999

**EXTRACTS FROM THE RECORDS OF THE LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY**

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 14 October 1998

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE - CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP - MOTION
AGREED TO:**

The Leader of Government Business (Mr Coulter) moved - That Mr Hatton be discharged from service on the Public Accounts Committee and Mr Elferink be appointed to the Committee in his stead. (Paper 688)

Question - put and passed.

Tuesday 16 February 1999

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES - CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP:

The Leader of Government Business (Mr Coulter), by leave, moved - That -

...

(4) the Member for Drysdale (Mr Dunham) be discharged from further attendance on the Public Accounts Committee and the Sessional Committee on the Environment;

...

(7) the Member for Drysdale (Mr Dunham) be discharged from further service on the Public Accounts Committee;

(8) Members be appointed to those committees as follows:

...

Standing Committee on Public Accounts -
Dr Lim