



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

13th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

Assembly Reference Regarding COVID-19 and Territory Finances

Resolution of the Legislative Assembly on 24 April 2020:

This Assembly resolves under Sessional Order 14(2)(d)(i) as a consequence of the presence of COVID-19 in Australia, the delay of a Federal Budget and by extension the delay of the NT Budget and to give Territorians confidence into Coronavirus related expenditure that:

1. The Public Accounts Committee (the Committee) will convene on the last Thursday of each month to hold a hearing with the Security and Emergency Management Sub Committee of Cabinet in attendance.
2. In addition to those mentioned in point 1, the Under Treasurer will also be in attendance at this hearing.
3. The time for the hearing should be two (2) hours with an additional hour for a deliberative meeting of the Committee.
4. The hearing will be open to the public unless the Committee orders otherwise.
5. In line with physical distancing guidelines, the hearing will have a limit of 20 persons in the room at any given time. The Chief Minister, Chief Executive of Department of Chief Minister and the Police Commissioner, as the Territory Controller, will be seated at the front of the hearing at the beginning of proceedings. Other members of the Security and Emergency Management Sub Committee of Cabinet will join them where the need arises.
6. To ensure access to media outlets, the Elsey Room will be made available with the broadcast to screen in there, noting that physical distancing guidelines must be adhered to.
7. All questions should be directed to the Chief Minister, conform to Standing Order 109 and answers will be concise and directly relevant to the question asked. The Chief Minister can refer questions to other members of the Security and Emergency Management Sub Committee of Cabinet, Ministers or Chief Executives in attendance where required.
8. Standing Order 109(4) will not apply to these hearings.
9. The Committee may request the attendance of a Minister or Chief Executive who is not a member of the Security and Emergency Management Sub Committee of Cabinet, giving no less than 3 days' notice.
10. Answers to questions taken on notice during the hearings, or additional information about an answer given or on behalf of a Minister, are to be written and given to the First Clerk Assistant by close of business the day before the next hearing.

11. The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly is authorised to publish a transcript of the Committee proceedings, whether or not it has been edited, as soon as practicable.
12. Evidence taken in public by the Committee and documents presented to the Committee are deemed to be authorised for publication by the Committee, unless the Committee orders otherwise.