



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
REPORT

Tuesday 10 June 2025
Wednesday 11 June 2025
Thursday 12 June 2025
Monday 16 June 2025
Tuesday 17 June 2025
Wednesday 18 June 2025
Thursday 19 June 2025

The Estimates Committee examined the estimates of proposed expenditure contained in the Appropriation Bill 2025-2026, the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, and the Statements of Corporate Intent 2024-2025 for the Power and Water Corporation, Jacana Energy and Territory Generation. Questions were raised by some Members on the following issues:

PORTFOLIO	AREAS OF QUESTIONING
Chief Minister (Independent Officers)	<p><i>Auditor-General</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funding bid to implement 2024 Triennial Strategic Review• Increase in workload due to machinery of government changes• FTE staffing of office• Adequacy of funding for Auditor-General’s office• Extent to which budget is keeping pace with increases in outsourced audit costs• Selection of auditors undertaking outsourced work• Key performance indicators – changes made to focus on outcomes rather than outputs• Number of audits completed to date• Referrals to external oversight bodies• Access to Cabinet documents• Government response to recommendations from the 2024 Triennial Strategic Review• Consultation on proposed amendments to the <i>Public Information Act 2010</i>• Determination of annual audit program• Audits of Closing the Gap and other Aboriginal matters• Adequacy of Audit legislation <p><i>NT Electoral Commission</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Budget for voter education and engagement• Tabling of Election 2024 Report and overview of voter participation• Number of election day polling booths

PORTFOLIO	AREAS OF QUESTIONING
<p style="text-align: center;">Chief Minister (Independent Officers)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote voting schedule and time allocations • Evaluation of remote engagement program • Expenditure on culturally appropriate training for commission staff and translation services • Protocols for candidates and campaign staff at election venues • Selection of venues for early voting centres • Postal voting arrangements • Relationship with Australian Electoral Commission • Consideration of electronic voting options to increase voter participation • Costs involved in recent by-elections • Process for dealing with complaints • Rights and responsibilities of those participating in elections <p><i>Acting Independent Commissioner Against Corruption</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICAC funding request and response • Staffing of ICAC office • Recurring themes arising from investigations • Number of investigations finalised in reporting period • Number of findings of improper conduct in reporting period • Recommendations implemented as a result of Operation Beaufort • Recommendations implemented as a result of Operation Apollo • Access to Cabinet documents • Government response to Inspector’s report regarding structural and legal constraints on ICAC’s performance • Alignment of ICAC legislation with national fundamental principles • Whistleblower protection • Number of reports provided to Chief Minister in reporting period • Redactions in reports provided to Chief Minister • Restoring confidence in the ICAC • Timeframe for the appointment of new ICAC • Process for handling conflicts of interest in ICAC and number of conflicts of interest declared during reporting period • Financial impact of having two Commissioners on ICAC payroll during the reporting period <p><i>Ombudsman</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of machinery of government changes on operations of Ombudsman’s Office • Recruitment process for Ombudsman • Resources and funding for additional oversight functions due to amendments to <i>Public Information Act 2010</i> • Number of inquiries and complaints regarding use of spit hoods on children in police custody • Implementation of Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture functions

PORTFOLIO	AREAS OF QUESTIONING
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prisoners' access to Ombudsman complaints process • Number of freedom of information requests received during reporting period • Systemic issues identified in the reporting period • Response to complaints during reporting period • Barriers to timely resolution of complaints • Breakdown of complaints against judicial officers by category • Number of complaints about police and corrections and number substantiated
<p>Chief Minister Territory Coordinator Defence NT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delay in responding to written questions within 30 day timeframe • Impact and cost of machinery of government changes to Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet • Number and type of executive contract officers • Number and expenditure on consultancies in reporting period • Number of strategic communications and engagement activities undertaken in reporting period • Guidelines for the application of the <i>Public Information Act</i> are being updated in accordance with Auditor-General's recommendations • New targets for approval timeframes and public reporting of performance • Reducing red tape across government • Cost of 'Boundless Possible' campaign • Defence spending in Gove region • Impact of climate change on the Territory economy • Public access to lobbyist register • Cost to taxpayers of chief executive officer terminations • Number and cost of chief executive officer terminations since change of Government • Budget allocation for Defence NT and number of Defence NT staff that are veterans or former ADF personnel • Changes to functions and membership of Regional Coordination committees • Economic vision for the Gove region and Gove Futures and transition funding • Role and number of staff in the Office of the Territory Coordinator • Current focus of the Territory Coordinator • Appointment process for Territory Coordinator • Management of potential conflicts of interest for Territory Coordinator • Office of the Territory Coordinator engagement processes • Identification of strategic projects and opportunities • Reduction in budget for the Office of the Territory Coordinator • Selection of Stuart Knowles as Territory Coordinator

PORTFOLIO	AREAS OF QUESTIONING
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to Territory Coordinator recruitment provisions in the draft Territory Coordinator Bill • Number, level and cost of Ministerial staff • Number, level and cost of staff provided to the Leader of the Opposition • Support and resources provided to crossbench MLAs
<p style="text-align: center;">Police</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies to prevent and reduce crime • Whole of Government approach to addressing crime • Increase in property crime and offences against the person • Strategies to address crime in Katherine and Alice Springs • Number of police squad graduates deployed to Katherine • Regional strategies and community plans to address domestic violence • Update on implementation of Coroner's recommendations • Co responder model successfully piloted in Alice Springs • Embedding interpreters in police force trialled and currently looking at doing so on a permanent basis • Management of conflicts of interest and oversight mechanisms regarding internal investigations of NT Police • Call for independent investigation into deaths in custody • Access to CCTV footage by family of Mr White • Policies and procedures regarding standing down of police officers under investigation • Negotiation of new EBA for NT Police • Number of sworn members in NT Police by rank • Number of Aboriginal Liaison Officers in NT Police • NT Police attrition rates and retention bonus • Strategies to reduce attrition and improve recruitment outcomes • Number of sworn and unsworn member vacancies • Number of sworn officers on sick leave • Average number of sick days, recreation and long service leave for remote officers • Participation rate in exit interviews by sworn officers • Status of wellbeing reform strategy • Number of assaults on police officers while on duty • Status of independent inquiry into senior police hiring practices • Recruitment of new police commissioner • Status of anti-racism strategy • Collaboration with other agencies and organisations to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in public housing • Strategies to reduce administrative burden on police officers • Implementation of recommendations from 2009 report into deaths in custody • Community safety model of policing and crime reduction

PORTFOLIO	AREAS OF QUESTIONING
<p style="text-align: center;">Police</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity for NT police to hold independent inquiries into deaths in custody • 'Engagement before Enforcement' strategy in remote communities • Accidents on Kirkland Rd and process for effecting safety upgrades to road infrastructure • Impact of nuisance public drinking offence • Increase in banned drinkers orders • Police numbers in Palmerston • School based Policing program • Expanding Aboriginal Liaison Officers in schools • Improving entitlements for Aboriginal Liaison Officers • Strategies to address vehicle thefts in Alice Springs • Number of adults and youths charged with ram raid offences • Prisoners on remand in police watch houses
<p style="text-align: center;">Treasurer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of infrastructure program and criteria for cuts to the program • Net debt projections and unfunded liabilities • Program for budget repair • Return to surplus in outer years of forward estimates • Moody's credit rating assessment • Removal of arbitrary debt ceiling • Fiscal strategies and targets for debt reduction • Population growth strategy • Interest payments over the forward estimates • Agency budget repair measures • Expenditure on promoting Territory budget • Number of public and stakeholder events associated with budget • Number, location, cost and objective of regional budget roadshows • Breakdown of costs for budget roadshows delivered by NTG • Strategies to ensure expenditure on budget messaging is informational and not political • Attendance at community event by Treasurer in week prior to budget • Timing of budget paper print run • GST distribution across jurisdictions • Expenditure related to Closing the Gap • Expenditure under the Home Grown and Fresh Start grant programs • Review of Home Grown grants program • Implementation of 12 month residency requirement for First Home Owner grants and consequences for non-compliance • Modelling of potential inflationary impacts of home owner grants

PORTFOLIO	AREAS OF QUESTIONING
<p style="text-align: center;">Treasurer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criteria for assessing success of home owner grants • Cost-benefit analysis of home owner grants • Review of home owner grants schemes and ceasing of \$10,000 grant for existing homes as of 30 September 2025 given availability of Federal Government grant • Publication of evaluation of home owner grants schemes • Master Builder's Fidelity fund • Annual review of procurement activity and 'Value for Territory' compliance program • Current financial commitments, net debt and interest rates • Scope for new infrastructure projects given current commitments • Inclusion of climate change factors in financial risk assessments • Consideration of social costs in review of tax payable by gambling industry • Consultation with gambling industry regarding legislative changes to tax regime • Tax regimes and regulatory reform for business • Timeframe for implementation of the SAGE integrated budget management system and cost of roll out across agencies • Agency compliance with financial caps and associated consequences and penalties for non-compliance • Increase to net debt as a result of the budget • Strategies to ensure long term sustainability of the Territory • Source of funding for corrections infrastructure needs • Variation in Housing budget • Repairs and maintenance budget for remote housing • Increase to Community Service Obligation (CSO) funding • Forward estimates for ongoing CSO commitment • Impact of CSO on power prices • Impact of CPI on power prices • Reprioritising of \$60m for undergrounding of power • Revenue received from gas industry • Rationale for investing in gas industry • ACIL Allen modelling on royalties from fracking • Royalties from SANTOS and INPEX
<p style="text-align: center;">Logistics and Infrastructure</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Housing Construction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic review of infrastructure program • Criteria for reprioritisation of infrastructure projects • Status of projects when they were reprioritised • Number of in-design projects that were cancelled • Update on construction of new watch house in Tennant Creek • Repayment of Federal Government investment in Middle Arm precinct • Investment options to support stage 2 and stage 3 business cases for Middle Arm precinct

PORTFOLIO	AREAS OF QUESTIONING
<p>Logistics and Infrastructure</p> <p>Housing Construction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timeline for completion of the Middle Arm precinct • Upgrades to barge landings in remote regions • Safety upgrades for Elcho Island aerodrome • Upgrades to the Central Arnhem road • Status of proposed upgrades to Ramingining link road • Gas industry road upgrades • Closing the Gap infrastructure priorities • Withdrawal of contractors from communities for safety reasons • Construction of houses in remote communities • Development of carpark next to Dundee boat ramp • Cancellation of Berrimah Road duplication project • Internal reform to cut red tape in Department of Logistics and Infrastructure and streamline administrative processes • Status of Remote Community Access Road Program • Number of legal matters before the courts during the reporting period and associated costs • Implementation of review under Aboriginal Justice Agreement regarding racism • Remote Housing program- number of new builds under national partnership agreement. • Input from local Territorians in design of houses under the remote housing program • Community engagement on house design preferences • Proportion of Aboriginal people employed in construction of remote housing • Delivery of remote housing through Aboriginal Business Enterprises • Number of remote housing subdivisions and lots to be delivered over the next 12 months • Update on subdivisions and lots currently in progress • Scheduled new public housing builds in urban centres • Update on Driver Primary School 'Kiss and Go' zone • Strategies to de-risk projects and manage cost over runs • Construction of remote police stations • Completion of upgrades to Yuendumu school • Status of Kalkarindji subdivision project • Funding for Phelps River bridge at Numbulwar reprioritised • Streamlining of procurement processes • Expenditure on repairs and maintenance for Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre. Don Dale Youth Detention Centre and Holtze Youth Detention Centre in reporting period • Total cost of Holtze Youth Detention Centre and refurbishment of Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre • Status of Kahlin Compound Memorial Project • Scheduled projects in Namatjira electorate

PORTFOLIO	AREAS OF QUESTIONING
<p>Logistics and Infrastructure</p> <p>Housing Construction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Santa Teresa road project • Funding for Brewer Estate headworks • Availability of industrial land in Central Australia • Funding for regional logistics hubs • Update on works at Gunbalanya Community Health Centre • Link between infrastructure funding cuts, homelessness, anti-social behaviour and access to specialised services • Cyclone shelter priority list • Update on Jabiru regional services hub • Criteria for prioritising infrastructure investment • Update on land in the Narrows and Shiers Street public housing redevelopment • Upgrades to the 14 barge landings identified in GHD report • Status of infrastructure upgrades to Ali Curung school • Homeland Learning Centre upgrades reprioritised • Number of transport safety officers and impact on number of assaults and anti-social behaviour • Relocation of Casuarina Bus interchange • Closure of Palmerston Bus Interchange under consideration
<p>Agriculture and Fisheries</p> <p>Recreational Fishing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in funding for Agriculture and biosecurity projects • Fisheries compliance unit • Status of the Blue Mud Bay agreement • King Ash Bay agreement • Recreational fishing surveys • Engagement of fisheries compliance unit with Land Councils, Traditional owners and Ranger groups • Buy back of gill net fishing licences • Update on phasing out of gill net fishing • Breakdown of ministerial travel to Daly Waters • Management of conflicts of interests • Pathways for Aboriginal people to access commercial fishing licences • Introduction of Aboriginal Coastal fishing licences • Addressing concerns of Northern Land Council regarding fishing quotas, protection of endangered species, access to sea country and involvement of Aboriginal people in decision making • Sharing of compliance data with land councils and traditional owners • Threatened Species Management Plan • Number of fisheries patrols conducted in reporting period • Number of fisheries patrol vessels that have operational cameras onboard • Review of camera footage from patrol vessels and validation of data obtained • Impact of climate change on agriculture and fisheries

PORTFOLIO	AREAS OF QUESTIONING
<p style="text-align: center;">Agriculture and Fisheries</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Recreational Fishing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding and programs to address risks associated with climate change such as drought resilience for primary producers • Partnership with Federal Government on the delivery of regional resilience plans and other climate change strategies • Impact of climate change on Blacklip Rock Oyster industry • Relationship between fisheries and AAPA regarding sacred sites • Transfer of ECO positions as a result of machinery of government changes and establishment of stand-alone Department of Agriculture and Fisheries • Status of former CEO Mr Andrew Kirkman • Recruitment process for CEO for Department of Agriculture and Fisheries • Number and cost of consultants engaged by department in the last financial year • Expenditure of Mango Twig Tip Dieback funding • Programs specifically designed to mitigate climate change and associated funding • Projects funded under the Recreational Fishing grants program • Number and location of Barramundi stocked in recreational fishing areas during reporting period • Strengthening of animal protection laws
<p style="text-align: center;">Mining and Energy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Renewables</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose of ministerial travel to Daly Waters and breakdown of costs • Recruitment process for Chief Executive Officer • Transfer of ECO positions as a result of machinery of government changes and establishment of stand-alone Department of Mining and Energy • Number and location of ECO positions • Transition to renewable energies and renewable energy target • Clarification of unresolved issues with gas wells on EP 187 • Cost of nine year gas sale agreement with Tamboran Resources to NT tax payers • Gas reservation policy • Estimated cost of achieving renewable energy target • Reduction in expenditure on renewable energy sources • Calculation of job projections for large projects in mining industry • Management of conflicts of interest between CEO and Territory Coordinator • Total revenue from mining activity in the reporting period • Total expenditure on subsidies and grants provided to the mining industry during reporting period • Revenue from mining royalties during the reporting period • Expected revenue from mining over the forward estimates • Number of operational mines in the Territory

PORTFOLIO	AREAS OF QUESTIONING
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits of roll out of renewable power in remote areas • Funding and commissioning of BESS1
<p style="text-align: center;">Corrections</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of, and funding for, educational programs in correctional facilities • Completion rates for education programs in correctional facilities • Number and nature of lock downs in correctional facilities since September 2024 • Participation in rehabilitation programs by gender • Evaluation of family violence programs • Management of supported accommodation • Budget for development of work camp in Katherine • Number of correctional officers currently employed • Number of correctional officers on extended sick leave • Staff to prisoner ratio and best practice standards • Number and nature of assaults on correctional services officers during reporting period • Number and cost of G4S officers working in correctional facilities across the Territory • Conflicts of interest in relation to Correctional Services procurement processes including G4S officers • G4S custodial operations at the Darwin Court • Number of assaults on G4S officers • Reduction in overtime costs since commencement of G4S contract • Average time offenders are held in watch houses • Number of prisoners currently on remand • Number of assaults on prisoners by staff that have been reported • Official visitor numbers in adult and youth detention centres during the reporting period • Delivery of domestic and family violence program to prisoners on remand • Status of works at the new youth detention facility at Holtze • FASD assessment and diagnosis for youth and adult offenders • Facilitation of video link calls between young people from Central Australia housed in Holtze and their families • Cost of transporting youth offenders between Alice Springs and Darwin • Use of spit hoods in watch houses and correctional facilities during the reporting period • Response to report of NT Children's Commissioner • Number of female prisoners in Darwin and Alice Springs • Relocation of female prisoners in Alice Springs • Community service orders • Timeframe for the delivery of new youth boot camps

PORTFOLIO	AREAS OF QUESTIONING
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth diversion grants • Status of prisoner work programs • Number of correctional officer separations in reporting period • Digitisation and modernisation of corrections data collection systems to improve systems and reduce paperwork • Number of mattresses on the floor in correctional facilities across the NT
<p>People, Sport and Culture</p> <p>Disability</p> <p>Arts</p> <p>Youth, Seniors and Equality</p> <p>Multicultural Affairs</p> <p>Veterans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delay in responding to written questions within 30 day timeframe • Decision making processes within the Department • Expressions of interest regarding operation of State Square Art Gallery • Re-establishment of the Creative Industry Ministerial Advisory Council • Management of conflicts of interest in relation to grants decisions • Proportion of funding allocated to multicultural affairs, youth, seniors, equality and veterans • Breakdown of FTE staffing • Budget allocation for strategies and programs to support veterans • Status of funding for the planning, design and construction of the Scott Palmer Services Centre • Current and ex-service defence personnel that live in the Territory • Consultation with veterans groups to identify priorities and programs ahead of the budget development • Health and wellbeing services for veterans • Regional and remote services for veterans • Number of meetings of Veterans Affairs Ministerial Advisory Council in reporting period • Specific programs to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and female veterans • Grants to veteran's organisations • KPI's for social inclusion and multiculturalism • Multicultural Affairs programs and grants • Number of multicultural events hosted by the Government in the reporting period • Number of meetings of the Multicultural Ministerial Advisory Council that is mandated to meet at least twice a year • Status of Multicultural Policy • Update on development of Multicultural facility in Alice Springs • Input of Multicultural Ministerial Advisory Council and multicultural groups regarding proposed repeal of vilification protections • Discussions held with multicultural groups on community safety • Community consultation on relocation of Casuarina youth hub to Leanyer • Total appropriation for youth in 2025-26 compared to 2024-25 • Status of next Gender Equality Action Plan

PORTFOLIO	AREAS OF QUESTIONING
<p>People, Sport and Culture</p> <p>Disability</p> <p>Arts</p> <p>Youth, Seniors and Equality</p> <p>Multicultural Affairs</p> <p>Veterans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of audits of organisations in receipt of funding for youth programs • Proportion of funding allocated to regional and remote youth programs • Delivery of NT Youth Strategy and implementation of action plan • Consideration of public transport access to proposed relocation of youth hub to Leanyer. • Funding allocated for youth mental health and wellbeing initiatives • Funding allocated to implementation of the Seniors Policy 2021-2026 and associated strategy • Operation of Seniors Ministerial Advisory Council – membership, funding, number of meetings held • Strategies to address Elder Abuse • Strategies and funding to address public safety and crimes against the elderly • Implementation of recommendations from the Disability Royal Commission • Consultation with the disability sector on repeal of portable long service leave provisions • Definition of disability used by Department in development and delivery of services • Funding dedicated to implementation of the Disability Action Plan and actions completed in the reporting period • Number of Territory participants in NDIS by region • Strategies to facilitate access to NDIS programs and services • Strategies to address workforce shortages in the disability sector • Responding to the 2023 NDIS review and design of foundational supports • Attracting and retaining Auslan interpreters in the Territory • Timeframe for processing applications to the concession and recognition schemes • Decrease in budget for concession and recognition scheme due to National Energy Bill relief • Pensioner concession scheme system upgrade • Process for managing complaints and concession and recognition scheme over payments • Expenditure on sports voucher scheme by region in the reporting period • Sports grant application process • Growing female sports in the Territory • Funding for new multi-sport precinct in Alice Springs • Update on redevelopment of Woodroffe oval and Tracy Village sports precinct • Sport participation data

PORTFOLIO	AREAS OF QUESTIONING
<p>People, Sport and Culture</p> <p>Disability</p> <p>Arts</p> <p>Youth, Seniors and Equality</p> <p>Multicultural Affairs</p> <p>Veterans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocation and expenditure of funding to peak sporting and active recreation bodies over the reporting period • Allocation and expenditure of funding to sports service providers • Funding allocated to the NT Sports and Active Recreation Strategic Plan • Community outreach programs – rural and regional communities • Budget and expenditure on sporting facilities • Evaluation of the active recreation plan • Sports academy delivery framework – outcomes achieved • Decrease in funding for the Arts • Breakdown of Arts grants program funding • Sustainable careers for local artists • Arts Trail funding by region • Breakdown of funding to Aboriginal Arts Centres • First Nations Capacity Building in Arts program • Funding for Music NT • Contribution of Arts industry to NT economy • Contribution to Performing Arts Awards • Night time economy arts strategy • Funding for major arts events and cultural festivals • Funding for arts programs in correctional facilities • Funding for archiving and storage of arts works at the museum • Budget allocation to support local music industry • Funding for libraries and archives • Breakdown of funding for council libraries • Formula for determining funding for council libraries • Library infrastructure upgrades • Mobile library services • Final cost for relocation of NT Library from Parliament House to Charles Darwin University city campus • Relocation of Litchfield Shire Council library • Funding for preservation of at-risk archives • Aboriginal access to Stolen Generations archives • Number of public access requests to archives NT received and completed over reporting period
<p>Attorney-General</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed amendments to the Anti-Discrimination Act 1992 • Consultation on amendments to the Anti-Discrimination Act 1992 • Number of complaints regarding vilification in reporting period • Removal of religious exemptions • Number of matters before the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner regarding current religious exemption provisions • Number of organisations consulted that have seen draft Bill • Status of review into racism in the NT Police Force and other agencies • Funding to implement Aboriginal Justice Agreement

PORTFOLIO	AREAS OF QUESTIONING
<p>Attorney-General</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for Northern Territory Aboriginal Remote Investment Agreement • Number of operational law and justice groups • Funding for law and justice groups subject to evaluation • Number of remote Aboriginal communities visited by Attorney-General in reporting period • Number of meetings with remote Aboriginal law and justice groups in reporting period • On-going funding for community courts subject to evaluation • Budget allocation for new law and justice groups and community courts • Sentencing options available to community courts • Number of people released on bail since new bail laws commenced on 6 January 2025 • Preparation of advice by Solicitor-General on finalisation of CEO's employment • Attendance at Standing Council of Attorneys-General meetings • Age of criminal responsibility and meaning of the term 'Doli Incapax' • Recruitment process for Director of Public Prosecutions • Evidence of fraudulent behaviour at the Darwin Waterfront Corporation • Recruitment of Director of Legal Aid NT • Resignations of board members subsequent to recruitment of Director of Legal Aid NT • Impact of new bail laws • Bail and violent offenders • Statistical validity of SerPro data • Meetings of the Child Deaths Review Committee • Review of all committees and boards under Attorney-General portfolio • Number of people on remand serving more time than they would if sentenced • Court wait times since commencement of new bail laws • Delay in providing answers to written questions • Number of matters the Solicitor-General outsourced during the reporting period • Number of matters were outsourced to Maley Barristers and Solicitors • Management of conflict of interest by Solicitor-General • Access to victims of crime services by applicants in remote communities • Payments made to Aboriginal vs non-Aboriginal victims • Budget for Legal Aid NT • Total budget for legal services and breakdown by type of service

PORTFOLIO	AREAS OF QUESTIONING
Attorney-General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Access to Justice Partnerships funding 2025-30 • Ways in which criminal justice research, evaluation and statistics informs government policy, legislation and trial of OC spray • Budget allocation for alternative dispute resolution • Aboriginal Justice Unit staff by level • Supporting Aboriginal leadership and local decision making • Implementation of AJA commitment to reduce incarceration of indigenous people • Range of programs in place to reduce recidivism • Upholding the rights of victims and offenders • Funding for specialist courts and training for judges and lawyers • Timeframe for the evaluation of family violence courts • Number of coronial inquiries undertaken in reporting period • Publication of Coroner’s Court November 2024 report on family violence • Cost of high profile coronial inquiries • Impact of reduction in budget on operational capacity of the Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner • Number and nature of vilification complaints received by commission • Process for dealing with vilification complaints and resourcing implications
Education and Training Early Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reprioritisation of infrastructure funding for Ali Curung, Yuendumu, Yirrkala schools and funding for the energy smart schools program • Reprioritisation of funding for Homeland Learning Centres • Number, location and cost of School Attendance Officers employed across the NT • Strategies to address underlying causes of poor school attendance • Data collected on school attendance compliance actions • Number of enforcement notices issued, and number revoked • Access to flexible learning options and number of enrolments • Remote Aboriginal Teacher Program • Target for remote Aboriginal teachers • Number of Aboriginal Teachers in the NT • Number of Aboriginals employed in the Department of Education • Entitlements for school council members • Eligibility for government employee housing • Implementation of Closing the Gap priorities • Establishment of Indigenous education peak body • Intensive support roll • Funding of students on intensive support roll • Number of teachers fluent in the language of the community they work in

PORTFOLIO	AREAS OF QUESTIONING
<p style="text-align: center;">Education and Training</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Early Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for bilingual education • Funding of school vehicles, teacher laptops and EBA increases • Implementation of the Better Fairer Schools Agreement • Language tests for first year students in bilingual schools • Funding for Aboriginal curriculum development • Roll out of 'explicit' teaching pedagogy • Classification of homeland schools as learning centres • Funding for homeland learning centres • Whole of community consultations in remote communities to discuss barriers to school attendance • Implementation of two-way learning • Retention rate of teachers from 2024 – 2025 • Number of children enrolled in school in youth detention centres • Increase in funding for Tivendale school • Classroom hours per day in youth detention centres • Number of private and public schools in the Territory • Implementation of Middle School reform • Strategies to address teacher shortages across the Territory • Teacher retention bonus • Cost of crime on education – assaults, vandalism, break and enter offences • Families as First Teachers program • Release of Family as First Teachers report • Number of early childhood and care services • Transition of unregulated child care services to regulated services • Access to subsidised 3 day early childhood education and care services • Training of staff in early childhood education • Expanding access to early childhood education to 3 year olds • PALM Scheme • Foundational support for children with disability in early childhood • Breakdown of Better Fairer Schools funding between NT and Federal governments • Implementation of swimming lesson mandate • Water safety land based lessons • Funding available to upgrade community pools • Visiting police in remote schools for primary aged children • Passing on of disability loadings under the school resourcing standard • Implementation of recommendations relating to education from the Royal Commission into disability • Funding to move 'kiss and go' zone at Humpty Doo primary school • Funding for school based policing program in remote schools • Number and location of school based police officers • Number and location of school counsellors

PORTFOLIO	AREAS OF QUESTIONING
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer of school support plans for children that enter youth detention • Response to Children’s Commissioner 2024 report into NT Youth Detention • NTCET and VET outcomes for secondary school students • International education services in government schools • Budget allocation for Charles Darwin University
<p style="text-align: center;">Public Service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of agency CEO’s following change of government • EBA negotiations with NT Police Association • Status of Andrew Kirkman’s employment • Former Commissioner Murphy’s employment contract and separation • NTPS redeployment register • Funding cuts to OCPE • Cap on frontline roles • Status of changes to employment instructions regarding redeployment and redundancies • Cuts to the number of supernumeraries • Review of Public Sector Employment and Management Act 1993 • Application of the merit principle in senior executive appointments
<p style="text-align: center;">Health Mental Health Alcohol Policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modelling of hospital presentations due to use of OC spray • Advice received or sought on potential health impacts of OC spray • Strategies to prevent Code Yellows in hospitals • Process and decision making regarding calling a Code Yellow • Number of days Royal Darwin Hospital has been above capacity during the reporting period • Double bunking in emergency departments • Number of patient flow teams in remote settings • Review of patient logistics operating model • Funding to increase operating hours of security at the Gove Hospital and provision of culturally appropriate response • Expiry date for current security contract at Gove Hospital • Number of interpreters embedded in hospital system • Access to Aeromedical retrieval services for homeland residents and communities that do not have operational health clinics • Provision and oversight of health services in homelands • Proportion of remote and hospital nursing staff that are agency staff as opposed to NT Government employees • Closure of maternity services at Darwin Private Hospital by Healthscope • Risk assessment undertaken before implementing alternate maternity options for privately insured patients • Capacity for maternity service at RDH to cater for additional births • Cost of ‘Returning Home Sooner’ package 2025/26

PORTFOLIO	AREAS OF QUESTIONING
<p style="text-align: center;">Health</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mental Health</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Alcohol Policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reintegrating ambulance service back to government control • Strengthening clinical governance concerns at St Johns • Health impacts of justice reforms • Tender regarding safe drinking water • Operational funding for 32 bed multi-purpose ward at RDH • Update on staff accommodation block at Tennant Creek hospital • Impact of removing the floor price on alcohol • Transition of Gunbalanya Health Clinic to Red Lily Health Board • Access to Government employee housing in remote areas for health clinic staff • Funding allocated to Sexual Assault Referral Centres for patient assisted travel services • Alcohol treatment and rehabilitation services • Community alcohol management plans • Impact of strategies such as nuisance public drinking laws and banned drinkers register on reducing alcohol related harm and crime • Budget allocation for the treatment and prevention of FASD • Access to residential aged care facilities in the NT • Update on investment in aged care facilities
<p style="text-align: center;">Housing, Local Government and Community Development</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Essential Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECO positions as a result of machinery of government changes • Number of full time and casual Aboriginal employees • Reprioritisation of grants since coming to government • Number of local government grants awarded to City of Palmerston in reporting period • Budget allocation for de-amalgamation of councils • Flexibility in local government model – consultation on village council model incorporating representation from all clan groups • Number of houses delivered under the Remote Housing Program • Vacancies in public housing by region and length of time houses remain vacant • Average time for repairs and maintenance in remote and urban areas • Planned housing redevelopments cancelled or deferred during the reporting period • Anti-social behaviour in public housing • Priority public housing waitlist numbers and wait time in urban and remote communities • Number of new housing to be delivered in 2025/26 • Complaints handling process
<p style="text-align: center;">Trade, Business and Asian Relations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bedding down of machinery of government changes • Cost of machinery of government changes • Number of staff dedicated to media and communications • Downgrading of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Gallery and impact on the local economy

PORTFOLIO	AREAS OF QUESTIONING
<p>Trade, Business and Asian Relations</p> <p>Workforce Development</p> <p>Advance Manufacturing</p> <p>International Education, Migration and Population</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressions of interest received for State Square Art Gallery • State Square Masterplan • Ministerial international travel undertaken since August 2024, associated costs, and return on investment • Number of international trade delegations and associated costs • Participation in Osaka World Expo • International trips planned for 2025/26 • Breakdown of Aviation Attraction Scheme funding • Airline routes being targeted in the aviation attraction scheme • Domestic airfare affordability • Increasing interstate and international routes into the Territory • Regional remote airfare and providers • Consultation with regional and remote communities on air routes • Designated migration agreement media event • Number of new surveyors registered in the reporting period • Growing the cattle industry • ECO positions as a result of machinery of government changes • Breakdown of ECO positions by level • External consultants engaged during the reporting period and number that were Territory companies • Decrease in target for customer satisfaction KPI • Diplomatic damage control regarding Darwin Port lease • Number of people that have moved to, and left the Territory over the past financial year • Strategy for growing the population • Growing the local workforce rather than relying on FIFO's • Responsibility for delivering population target • Measures to promote local content in procurement • Number of FTE working on new International Education strategy • Consultation process for new International Education strategy • Update on negotiations to increase quota of international students for Charles Darwin University • Study NT ambassadors
<p>Children and Families</p> <p>Child Protection</p> <p>Prevention of Domestic Violence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of program evaluation framework for Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence programs • Shift in focus from outputs to outcomes • Men's behaviour change programs • Evaluation Road Map to be completed by July 2025 • Number of children in out of home care and kinship care • Family Responsibility Agreements and use of interpreters when they are developed • Number, level and qualifications of employees on the Circuit Breaker Program and number that are Aboriginal • Findings of coronial inquest into death of Baby G • Funding for homebased kinship and foster care services

PORTFOLIO	AREAS OF QUESTIONING
<p>Children and Families</p> <p>Child Protection</p> <p>Prevention of Domestic Violence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting kinship and foster carers in their role • Barriers to kinship and foster care • Requirements for kinship vs foster care • Payment per child for foster and kinship care • Child notifications in past 12 months that resulted in investigations and substantiations • Average time between notification and departmental response • Number of child protection notifications that involve family violence • Number of reunifications in reporting period • Budget allocation for remote safe houses • Upgrades of safe houses prior to hand over to ACCO's • Status of infrastructure funding for upgrades to the Katherine Women's Crisis Centre and Dawn House • Number of crisis accommodation beds available across the Territory • Number of people turned away from crisis accommodation over the reporting period due to a lack of beds • Establishment of peaks body for domestic, family and sexual violence • Funding agreements with AMSANT and NTCOSS • Meetings of the Child Deaths Review Committee • Focus of the Circuit Breaker program and how it differs from programs such as Right Track or YORET • Scope and timing of evaluation of Circuit Breaker program • Number of children in care that are also in the youth justice system • Budget and strategy to increase child protection and domestic, family and sexual violence work force • Child protection case load by region • Child protection vacancies by region • Number of unallocated child protection cases per region • Number of mandatory reports made during reporting period and number substantiated • Dissolution of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Advisory Forum • Homelessness services • Review or evaluation of the 'No More' campaign • Ministerial visits to remote safe houses • Update on Salvation Army Accommodation project in Alice Springs • Number of children in care that had a care plan during the reporting period • Oversight of home based care budget

PORTFOLIO	AREAS OF QUESTIONING
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory cross cultural awareness training for child protection workers
<p>Lands, Planning and Environment</p> <p>Water Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government’s position on net zero emissions target • Regulatory statement regarding regulation of greenhouse gas emissions in the NT • Changes to large emitters policy • Current target for reduction in emissions in the NT • Strategies to reduce carbon footprint • Funding for programs to address climate change • SunCable project • Reduction in funding for the Office of Water Security • Gas shortages in the NT • Carbon emissions from gas powered energy generation • NT Government’s definition of climate change • Causes of climate change and assessment of climate risk • Impact of climate change in the Northern Territory • Funding for and role of the Office of Climate Change • Office of Climate Change grants to support strategies to reduce emissions • Dissolution of Water Advisory Committees • Mataranka water allocation plan • Land clearing at Claravale Station and farm without a permit • Data on land clearing without a permit during the reporting period • Funding for collection of data on land clearing • Technology used to detect land clearing • Staffing allocated to monitoring land clearing • Prosecutions for land clearing in the reporting period • Buffel Grass management • Work of Weed Advisory Council • Number of environmental approvals in the reporting period and conditions regarding greenhouse gas emissions • Impact of gas fracking on water resources • Well integrity code of practice • Number of environment compliance audits for petroleum and mining projects undertaken in the reporting period and number of identified breaches • Funding for environmental assessments for the Middle Arm project • Funding allocated for subdivision works in 2025/26 • Number of urban and remote lots to be approved in 2025/26 • Funding for the release of residential and industrial land in Tennant Creek • Vacant land in Alice Springs and number of lots to be released in 2025/26 • Availability of land for the multicultural centre in Alice Springs

PORTFOLIO	AREAS OF QUESTIONING
<p>Lands, Planning and Environment</p> <p>Water Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed development at the Darwin Waterfront and potential impact on sacred sites • Definition of climate risk, mitigation and adaptation • Budget for monitoring and protecting ecosystems vulnerable to climate change • Forthcoming land releases in Palmerston • Requirements for green spaces in urban developments • Management of conflicts of interest and publication of register of interests • Storage of low level nuclear waste in the NT • Tellus Salt Mine and potential storage of low level nuclear waste • Budget for remediating legacy mine sites • Development of a new Top End waste management facility • Identification of sites for disposal of green waste resulting from cyclones • Construction of bulk fuel tanks on Darwin harbour without a building permit by Crowley Solutions • Investigation into allegations of contaminated water entering harbour at Crowley construction site • Completion of fire safety review of bulk fuel tanks • Appointment of structural engineer to certify the fuel tanks • Illegal dumping on crown land • Fidelity Fund NT payment to Master Builders Association • Publication of capital management plans • Management, storage and environmental oversight of waste water from hydraulic fracking • Publication of tracking system for waste water from fracking • Implementation of Pepper Inquiry recommendations • Number of monitoring and compliance inspections of fracking sites undertaken in reporting period • Number of filled positions on the Heritage Board • Staffing of the NTEPA • Number of formal enforcement actions taken by the NTEPA in the reporting period • Number and type of pollution reports received by NTEPA in reporting period • Assessment of cumulative impacts of large water extraction licences such as Singleton Station • NTEPA guidance regarding consultation requirements • Publication of documentation relating to impact assessments • Changes to used tyre recycling and disposal • NT threatened species not supported by Commonwealth recovery program • Reduction in budget allocation for flora and fauna • Crocodile management

PORTFOLIO	AREAS OF QUESTIONING
<p>Lands, Planning and Environment</p> <p>Water Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of reduction in water resources budget on capacity to monitor ground water • Limits of Acceptable Change guideline • Reduction in budget for water security • Water security for remote communities and the impact of climate change • Management of Gamba Grass and compliance program • Consultation on amendments to Sacred Sites legislation
<p>Power and Water Corporation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of staff that live or are based outside of the NT • Number of contractors employed in PWC • Organisational structure • Rationale for employees that work outside of the NT • FTE cap for executive contract officers • Recruitment of operational workers • Employee value proposition • Conversion of contractors to full time employees • Cost of roll out of the Meter to Cash program • Roll out of Smart Meters • Life span of new smart meters • Number of employees undertaking smart meter installations • Reactor bank project in Alice Springs • Expenditure on Trevor Horman substation • Expenditure on consultancies in reporting period • Update on undergrounding of power lines • Policy on undergrounding of power lines for new subdivisions • Forthcoming energy needs of the NT and infrastructure requirements • Impact of changes in government policy regarding net zero emissions target • Advice provided to government on cost and reliability of gas and renewables • Cost effectiveness and viability of solar power and battery storage • Levelized cost of energy of gas versus renewables • Number of disconnections in remote communities during the reporting period • Current pre-payment and post-payment tariffs • Visibility of consumption and spending for customers on pre-paid tariffs • Measures to relieve rising cost of living pressures in remote communities • Drinking water quality in remote communities • Expenditure on Reconciliation Action Plan • Policy regarding replacement of water pipes
<p>Jacana Energy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Averaging quarterly bill in the NT by region • Number of customers in default by region

PORTFOLIO	AREAS OF QUESTIONING
<p>Jacana Energy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complaints regarding smart meters • Breakdown of number of customers by category • Customer satisfaction surveys • Introduction of double solar feed in tariff • Economic modelling on changes to feed in tariff • Update on public housing roof top solar trial • Online billing and smart metering • Cost of modern management system • Purchase of renewable energy certificates • Impact of increase in renewable energy uptake • Number of customers currently enrolled in hardship program • Advice to government regarding impact of retail price regulation on Jacana Energy's long term sustainability • Community Service Obligation • Investment in customer service • Meter access and notifications • Estimated bill process • Billing errors • Changes to the way GST is charged on bills • Feed in tariff rate changes
<p>Territory Generation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of staff based outside of the NT • Number of contractors employed • Organisational structure • Expenditure on consultancies • Update on Darwin-Katherine BESS project • Expenditure on BESS for reporting period • Cost savings as a result of BESS • Impact of changes to net zero emissions policy • Role of gas in generating electricity in the NT • Initiatives to support transition to renewables • Renewable energy targets • System risk and non-reliability notices received in reporting period • Update on Ron Goodin power station • Strategies to address material risks regarding cyber security, gas security, system blacks • Power system modelling of new assets • Update on any changes to TGen's risk profile • Current capacity of power stations across the NT • Capital expenditure dedicated to renewables and fossil fuels • Synchronous condensers • Optimal battery storage capacity • Update on DK BESS2 • Assessment of stranded fossil fuel assets • Buy Local procurement policy • Expected life span of the turbines at Channel Island

PORTFOLIO	AREAS OF QUESTIONING
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of life projections for TGen assets
Speaker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timeframe for electorate office handovers • Relationship between Department of the Legislative Assembly and NT Property Management • Process regarding expiration of electorate office leases • Update on security standards at electorate offices • NT Police access to electorate office cctv footage • Increase in security incidents at electorate offices • Members' entitlements • Daily news alert service provided by Library in previous Assembly • Acquisition budget for the Parliamentary Library • Use of former NT Library space in Parliament House • Decision to move the NT Library to the CDU campus • Cost of overtime and time in lieu to run the Estimates process • Consideration of alternate ways of holding Estimates process • Costing of holding Parliament outside of Darwin • Identification of training needs of MLAs • Consideration of training and development opportunities for MLAs in other parliaments • Breakdown of funding for Parliamentary committees • Increase in budget for Member Services • Funding available to scrutinise all legislation • Budget allocation for portraits for past Speakers and Chief Ministers • Room fees for party political events • Speaker approval for events in Parliament House • Payment for events held in Parliament House • Staffing in the Committee Office • Payment of room hire for Australian Christian Lobby event at Parliament House



**Mr Clinton Howe MLA
CHAIR**