



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
ESTIMATES COMMITTEE: AGENCY ANNUAL REPORT HEARINGS
REPORT

Tuesday 28 November 2017
Wednesday 29 November 2017
Thursday 30 November 2017

The Estimates Committee examined the performance of Agencies as outlined in their Annual Reports. Questions were raised by some Members on the following issues:

PORTFOLIO	ISSUES by REPORT
Chief Minister	NT Auditor-General <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources required to undertake audit reviews • Power and Water Corporation audit report 2015 • Audit process • Audit cost recovery process • <i>Public Information Act</i> referrals and reviews • Breach of procurement guidelines by Department of Housing • Follow up regarding Tiwi Islands land leasing arrangement
	Ombudsman NT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of the Ombudsman's office • Percentage of work dealing with complaints about Police • Investigation of women in prisons • Investigation of criminal damage to electricity infrastructure in remote communities • Visits to remote Indigenous communities • Transfer of Information Commissioner responsibilities when ICAC is established
	NT Electoral Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palmerston Local Government election following suspension of Council • Increasing voter participation rates across the Territory • Prosecution of non-voters • NTEC education programs • Transfer of Australian Electoral Commission resources to QLD
	Department of the Chief Minister <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory • Community Support Grants program

<p style="text-align: center;">Chief Minister</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Aboriginal Affairs: staffing, outcomes, achievements • Community Champions program • Treaty negotiations: participation and approach by department • Local decision making agenda • Processes in place to ensure agency is fit for purpose • Strategic development by central agencies • Internal audit system • Staffing and number of supernumerary positions • Community Engagement Officers • Consultation on Seniors Concession Scheme • Support for Assistant Ministers • Budget allocation and machinery of government changes • Calculation of Aboriginal employment target • Leadership development opportunities for Aboriginal employees • Chief Minister's monthly expenditure • Future of Jabiru
<p style="text-align: center;">Police, Fire and Emergency Services</p>	<p>NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attrition, retention and recruitment of constables • Addressing growing demand on Police service • Role of Territory Response Group • Community engagement and empowerment initiatives • Resourcing of youth diversion programs in remote communities
<p style="text-align: center;">Trade, Business and Innovation</p>	<p>Department of Trade, Business and Innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant programs • Accountability required of grant recipients • Remote Aboriginal Economic Development Program • Indigenous workforce initiative • Local employment opportunities in Aerospace industry project • Internal audit procedures
<p style="text-align: center;">Treasurer</p>	<p>Department of Treasury and Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure Development Fund • Encouraging population growth • Attracting business to the NT • Treasury staff development • Indigenous Employment Strategy • Feedback on the Revenue Discussion Paper • Horizontal Fiscal Equalisation • GST grants • Impact of major projects on the NT economy • Returning the budget to balance • Encouraging private investment in the NT • Impact of youth justice reforms on the NT budget • MyFuel NT initiative • Departmental travel costs • Royalty payment method <p>Utilities Commission NT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going role for the Utilities Commission

<p style="text-align: center;">Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics</p>	<p>Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of amalgamating Departments of Infrastructure, Transport and Lands and Planning • Cost of consultancies • Definition of 'local industry' • Scheduled works on the Central Arnhem road • Ramingining road works • Planned upgrade of Arnhem Highway • Number of houses constructed in Galiwinku • Number of Indigenous employees on remote housing program • Construction works on Nhulunbuy Public Hospital • Cost of Wadham Lagoon flood mitigation project • Flood mitigation projects in Alice Springs • Agri-business and logistics hub • Flood mitigation projects in Katherine • Palmerston Regional Hospital • Coolalinga traffic management solutions • Planning study for MacMillan's Road • Traffic model plan for Darwin Airport • Scrutiny of Indigenous Employment Provisional Sum payments • Compliance breaches in lands and planning • Improvements to planning system • Demographic assessments • Repairs and maintenance stimulus program • Partnership agreement on remote Indigenous housing • Palmerston Police Station • Bellamack housing and wastewater issues • Ridesharing in the NT • Cost of driverless bus project • Remote transport strategies • MVR services <p>NT Planning Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of the Planning Commission • Average cost of Area Plans <p>Land Development Corporation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kilgariff subdivision • Tiwi land leasing arrangement
<p style="text-align: center;">Power and Water Corporation</p>	<p>Power and Water Corporation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas contractual obligations with ENI • Impact of onshore gas exploration on the market • Contingency plan to address PFAS issues in Katherine • Communications with Commonwealth regarding PFAS • Solar Energy Transformation Program • Inclusive workforce strategies
<p style="text-align: center;">Jacana Energy</p>	<p>Jacana Energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Service Obligation • Customer service system

<p>Jacana Energy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in disconnections • Financial hardship program • Fee structure • Financial management system • Pre-payment meter • Cost of rooftop solar buy backs • Commercial and residential feed-in tariffs • Investment in renewable energy
<p>Territory Generation</p>	<p>Territory Generation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of renewable energy on fossil generation • Impact of onshore gas exploration • Safety record and loss time incidents • Management of fatigue • Operator maintainer model • Decommissioning of Ron Goodin power station • Tenure over Owen Springs power station
<p>Attorney-General and Justice</p>	<p>Department of the Attorney-General and Justice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal Justice Agreement • Waiving of fees for personal identification • Aboriginal Justice Unit • Funding for legal aid organisations • Review of Victims of Crime Unit • Funding for prisoner community support work programs • Correctional industries • Review of <i>Anti-Discrimination Act</i> • Elders Visiting Program • Recruitment and retention of Aboriginal employees • Review of low security prisoner facilities • Prisoner education programs • Parole Board <hr/> <p>Director-General Licensing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll out of Banned Drinkers Register <hr/> <p>Commissioner for Information and Public Interest Disclosures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocation of staff to ICAC • Staff training <hr/> <p>Community Benefit Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Community Benefit Fund • Balance of Community Benefit Fund • Maximum grant available • Grants guidelines • Evaluation of economic benefit to local community • Feedback process to unsuccessful applicants <hr/> <p>Electricity Safety Regulator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visits and inspections <hr/> <p>Anti-Discrimination Commission NT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasons for review of <i>Anti-Discrimination Act</i> • Public consultation on review of <i>Anti-Discrimination Act</i> • Age discrimination regarding mandatory retirement age for Police • Nature of major complaints received by Commissioner

<p style="text-align: center;">Attorney-General and Justice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-Discrimination training programs • Definition of vilification
	<p>Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Advisory Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of Advisory Council in the review of the <i>Return to Work Act</i>
	<p>Children’s Commissioner NT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of abuse in care reports • Role and focus of the Office of the Children’s Commissioner
	<p>Commissioner of Consumer Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MyFuel NT legislation • Education materials for Indigenous communities
<p style="text-align: center;">Health</p>	<p>Department of Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract management of ambulance services • Review of Emergency Medical Retrieval Model • Review of Care Flight contract • Demand on health services in the Territory • Increase in presentations to emergency departments • Alcohol related presentations to emergency departments • Remote renal health services • Diabetes education programs in remote communities • Access to emergency care in remote communities • Rehabilitation centres on homelands • Renal disease treatment options • Governance and management structure for renal services • Number of Territorians undertaking renal home care services • Health infrastructure planning and investment • Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder • Disability services • Palliative care centre in Alice Springs • Asbestos contamination in Alice Springs Hospital • Car parking at Alice Springs Hospital • Palmerston Regional Hospital • Use of agency staff in hospitals • CT scan for Katherine hospital • Budget overrun • Access to pregnancy termination services • PFAS contamination in Katherine
<p style="text-align: center;">Housing and Community Development</p>	<p>Department of Housing and Community Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government Employee Housing • Urban public housing stock for single person households • Social head-leasing policy • Wait lists for public housing • Public housing assets in Katherine • Probity auditing of town camp contracts • Property tenancy management, repairs and maintenance • Contract management of housing stock • Homelessness • Urban housing strategy • Public housing disposal policy

<p>Housing and Community Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote home ownership • Room to Breathe program • Public Housing Safety Officers • Aboriginal Interpreter Service • Public housing garden competition • Staffing levels and machinery of government changes • Power and Water street light reimbursement program • Operation of local authorities • Compliance reviews • Investigation of Palmerston City Council • Local Government expenditure of grant funding • Local Government Disciplinary Committee • Acquittal of Special Purpose grants
<p>Public Employment</p>	<p>Commissioner for Public Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Measures Program • Agency Indigenous employment targets • ATSI Public Employment Forum • Job qualification requirements
<p>Primary Industry and Resources</p>	<p>Department of Primary Industry and Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal fishing coastal licences • Indigenous employment and economic development opportunities • Animal welfare complaints • Ord River Stage Three • Development of water resources • Developing the North Cooperative Research Centre • Impact of Magpie Geese in Mango Orchards • Poppy growing trial • Panama disease • Control of cucumber mosaic virus • Control of watermelon mottle virus • Biosecurity management practices • Banana Freckle program • Use of near-infrared spectroscopy in the mango industry • Mango trial in Ali Curung • Eradication of fruit fly at Ti Tree • Donkey farming • Blue tongue monitoring program in Timor Leste • Illegal fishing practices • Protected yellow snapper areas • Indigenous animal welfare inspectors • Inquiry into hydraulic fracturing • Rehabilitation of extractive mining sites • Mining security bonds held by the Government • Environmental regulation of mines • Soil nitrous oxide emissions
	<p>Department of Environment and Natural Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental legislation reform program

<p>Environment and Natural Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of container deposit scheme • Environment grants • Recycling opportunities in remote communities • Recording of Aboriginal environmental knowledge • Indigenous Ranger Program • Kalkarindji container deposit scheme • Monitoring of drainage works at Mitchell Creek • Illegal dumping in the rural area • PFAS contamination • CDU research on mangrove dieback in Gulf of Carpentaria • Management of pastoral land • Land clearing applications • Soil site testing • Water licence portal • Bushfires resulting from arson • Management of bushfires • Carbon abatement program • Waste water discharge licences • Impact of Cabomba weed eradication herbicides • Management of coastal and marine environment • Grants program for ranger groups • Funding of environmental organisations across the NT • Water licence review • Gamba grass compliance and enforcement program • Mexican Poppy
	<p>Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenue streams
<p>Tourism and Culture</p>	<p>Department of Tourism and Culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of grants programs • Tourism infrastructure fund expenditure • Consultation on Alice Springs Art Gallery • Mountain bike riding trails master plan • Chinese tourism market • Territory Wildlife Park • Cooperative marketing arrangements • Development of parks and reserves across the Territory • Park visitor numbers • Attracting women and girls in sport • Athletics track proposed for Alice Springs • Sports vouchers • Funding for Marrara Sports Complex • Active Recreation policy • Fink Desert Race Masterplan
	<p>Darwin Waterfront Corporation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return of Darwin Waterfront to Darwin City Council • Darwin Waterfront masterplan

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of and partnerships with the Larrakia Nation and the Larrakia Development Corporation • Linkages between Waterfront and CBD
Speaker	Department of the Legislative Assembly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expenditure on research support for Independent Members • Karen Sheldon catering contract • Functions in the Main Hall • Employee expenses
Education	Department of Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender balance in teaching staff • Nhulunbuy boarding school • Literacy and numeracy programs in remote communities • Bilingual education programs • Improving school attendance rates • School funding formula • Global school budgets • Delivery of ESL programs • Special education facilities in remote communities • Stress leave • Retention of staff • Average age of teaching staff • Number of schools that were locked down in 2016-17 • Safe Schools program • Closing the Gap on educational outcomes consultancy • School scholarships • Professional development opportunities for teaching staff • Access to study leave • Staffing numbers • Healthy Life, Creative Life program • Flexible learning centres • Alternative education sites • Number of ATSI principals in the NT • Indigenous Teachers Initiative
Territory Families	Territory Families <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding the footprint of the agency • Funding of services in remote areas • Out of Home Care services • Partnering with Foodbank • Access to after-hours services • Youth Diversion Services in remote communities • Local decision making in youth reforms • Systemic causes of child neglect • Increase in casework for Family Support Services • Staff recruitment and retention strategies • Support for foster carers and kinship carers • Workplace Health and Safety incidents • Seniors and Carers Concession Scheme

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elder abuse• Expenditure on Don Dale and Owen Springs correctional facilities• Funding set aside for Youth Justice facilities• Funding for multicultural organisations• Northern Cowboys rodeo• Budgeting for youth services• Management of residential care programs• Maintaining cultural links• Support for young people exiting care
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Ms Ngaree Ah Kit, MLA

CHAIR