



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Committee of Members' Interests

**REPORT TO THE ASSEMBLY ON A PROPOSAL TO TABLE
MEMBERS' INTERESTS RETURNS AND UPLOAD THE TABLED
DOCUMENT ON THE ASSEMBLY WEBSITE EACH YEAR**

MARCH 2016



Committee of Members' Interests

Report to the Assembly on a proposal to Table Members' Interests Returns and upload the tabled document on the Assembly website each year

At the meeting of the Committee held in November 2015 (Annexure 1) a proposal by the Speaker, the Hon Kezia Purick MLA that the Register of Members' Interests be placed on the Legislative Assembly website for public access was considered and the Committee determined to analyse the experience in other Australian jurisdictions.

The meeting of 10 February 2016 (Annexure 2) examined the following comparative table

Parliament	Returns on Website	Comments
Northern Territory	No	Inspect during business hours at OTC only. Availability of Register and conditions for inspection as set by the Committee of Members Interests.
Australian Parliament	Yes (ongoing)	http://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Members/Regi ster
NSW	Yes (annual)	The Register of Disclosures by Members of the Legislative Council and the Register of Disclosures by Members of the Legislative Assembly can be viewed by appointment with the relevant Office of the Clerk between 10.00 am and 4 pm on any business day. Returns tabled annually: http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/la/latabdoc.nsf/30d097a da2f32772ca256e84007f076b/565a1264e9cce984ca257e3d00 260a18?OpenDocument
Victoria	Yes (annual)	A summary of the register is made publicly available each September. A report is tabled each year in the Parliament. Any changes to the register since the most recent cumulative summary can be obtained from the Parliamentary Library. http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/file_uploads/18_February_201 5_to_22_May_2015_8QqLh8YP.pdf
Queensland	Yes (ongoing)	Access by appointment with the Office of the Clerk, during normal business hours. Standing Order 263 requires a Register to be maintained. An Annual Report of the Register is tabled and made available on the website. The Registrar also must maintain an up to date

		register on the web site so that if a new entry is lodged it must be up within a week. https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/Members/registerInterests/MembersRegister.pdf
South Australia	Yes (annual)	Available upon request by any member of the public. That member of the public may take a copy of any of its contents (s5(2)). Tabled documents available online at: https://www.parliament.sa.gov.au/HouseofAssembly/Other/Publications/Pages/RegisterofMembersInterests.aspx
Western Australia	Yes (annual)	Access by appointment with the relevant Office of the Clerk between 10.00 am and 4 pm on any business day. S. 17(3) allows a person inspecting a register may take a copy of any part of a register. Annual reports tabled in Parliament and can be found online at: http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/publications/taledpapers.nsf/displaypaper/3910677cc7dc806de48661aa48257c06000da798/\$file/tp-677.pdf
Tasmania	Yes (annual)	Access by appointment with the Office of the Clerk between 10.00 am and 4 pm on any business day. Returns tabled annually: http://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/LC/LCTabledPaper.htm
ACT	Yes	Declarations made available for perusal to any person on request. See Appendix 21, Companion to the Standing Orders http://www.parliament.act.gov.au/members/declarations-of-interest

The Committee considered options such as maintaining a live document on the website for constant updating or an annual tabled document where interested parties could seek interim updates from the Registrar of Members' Interests (the Clerk) as is practiced in a number of jurisdictions.

Tabled papers are publically available documents, work is underway for 'e-tabling' to become routine, as per a resolution of the Assembly in 2014. This proposal is for the tabled document to be specifically earmarked and easy to find on the website.

After consideration of the matter the Committee resolved to recommend changes to the Assembly to allow for an annual uploading of the Register.

Resolved on the motion of Mr Elferink:

That the Committee recommends a report to the Assembly that an annual return of the Register of Members' Interests be placed on the Legislative Assembly website after tabling during the second sitting period each year, commencing in 2017.

Recommendation

The Assembly agree that the Register of Members' Interests be tabled annually in the Assembly during the second sittings period of each year and the tabled document will be made available on the Assembly website with a notation that subsequent updates should be sought from the registrar as the tabled document is a report of interests as at a moment in time and the legislation requires Members to ensure consistent updating.

APPROVED BY CHAIR 2/3/16

Hon John Elferink MLA
Chair

**The Standing Orders Committee reconvened as the
Committee of Members' Interest**

Meeting No. 2
12.50pm, Wednesday 18 November 2015 – Litchfield Room

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

PRESENT Hon. John Elferink MLA (Chair)
Hon. Kezia Purick MLA
Ms Natasha Fyles MLA
Ms Lauren Moss MLA
Mr Gerry Wood MLA
Mr Michael Tatham (Secretary)

APOLOGIES Mr Gary Higgins MLA

1. WELCOME

The Chairman, Hon John Elferink MLA opened the meeting at 12.15pm.

2. Members' Register of Interests

The Speaker, Hon Kezia Purick MLA proposed that the Register of Members be placed on the Legislative Assembly website for public access.

It was resolved on the motion of Ms Purick that the Secretary will provide an out of session paper for committee members on this proposal and to be placed on the Agenda of the next meeting of the Committee of Members Interest.

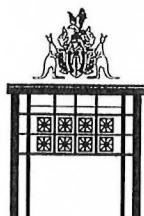
3. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:15pm until a time and date to be notified to Members by the Chairman.

CONFIRMED


JOHN ELFERINK
Chairman

18/11/15
25/11/15



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
12th Assembly
Committee of Members' Interests

Meeting No. 3
12.25pm, Wednesday 10 February 2016 – Litchfield Room

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

PRESENT	Hon. John Elferink MLA (Chair) Hon. Kezia Purick MLA Mr Gary Higgins MLA Ms Natasha Fyles MLA Mr Gerry Wood MLA Mr Michael Tatham (Secretary)
APOLOGIES	Ms Lauren Moss MLA

1. WELCOME

The Chairman, Hon John Elferink MLA opened the meeting at 12.25pm.

2. Members' Register of Interests

The Chair briefed the Committee on the purpose of Members' Interests declaration.

Discussion ensued on how the Register can be viewed by the public.

Resolved on the motion of Mr Elferink

That the Committee recommends a report to the Assembly that an annual return of the Register of Members' Interests be placed on the Legislative Assembly website after tabling during the second sitting period each year, commencing in 2017.

3. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12.30pm until a time and date to be notified to Members by the Chairman.

CONFIRMED

JOHN ELFERINK
Chairman

10:35
2/3/16