



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**Social Policy Scrutiny Committee**

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# **Associated Minutes of Proceedings**

## **Inquiry into the Animal Protection Bill 2018**

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**May 2018**



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY  
13<sup>th</sup> Assembly

SOCIAL POLICY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Meeting No.10**

1.00 pm, Thursday, 8 February 2018  
Ormiston Room

**Present:** Ms Ngaree Ah Kit MLA, Chair, Member for Karama  
Mrs Robyn Lambley MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Araluen  
Ms Sandra Nelson MLA, Member for Katherine  
Mrs Lia Finocchiaro MLA, Member for Spillett  
Mr Chansey Paech MLA, Member for Namatjira

**Secretariat:** Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Annie McCall, Administration/Research Officer

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**1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Ms Nelson moved and Mrs Finocchiaro seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 9 of 5 February 2018 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

**2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

Noted

**3. DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE AMENDMENT (INFORMATION SHARING) BILL**

Mrs Finocchiaro moved and Mrs Lambley seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of additional submissions received.

Question put and passed

Mr Paech moved and Mrs Finocchiaro seconded that:

The Committee invite representatives from the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice, the Commissioner for Information and Public Interest Disclosures, the Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission, the Central Australian and the Top End Women's Legal Services, the Domestic and Family Violence Network and the Department of Health to appear before the Committee at its public hearing on Wednesday, 14 February 2018.

It was further agreed that the Committee Secretary would draft questions to be provided to the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice, following approval of the Chair, for consideration ahead of the hearing, requesting that responses be provided in writing.

**4. CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT (INTIMATE IMAGES) BILL 2017**

Mrs Lambley moved and Mr Paech seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of the additional submission received.

Question put and passed.

Mrs Finocchiaro moved and Ms Nelson seconded that:

The Committee invite representatives from the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice, the Commissioner for Information and Public Interest Disclosures, the Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission, the Top End Women's Legal Service, RMIT and Monash Universities and Mr Rhys Michie to appear before the Committee at its public hearing on Wednesday, 14 February 2018.

Question put and passed.

It was further agreed that the Committee Secretary would draft questions to be provided to the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice, following approval of the Chair, for consideration ahead of the hearing, requesting that responses be provided in writing.

**5. ADOPTION OF CHILDREN LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (EQUALITY) BILL**

Ms Nelson moved and Mrs Lambley seconded that:

The Committee's report acknowledge the views expressed in the submissions received and recommend that the Assembly pass the Bill.

Question put and passed

**6. OTHER BUSINESS**

***Committee Communication on Bill Referrals***

Subject to the provisions of Standing Order 194, it was agreed that the Chair would keep the relevant Minister informed of the Committee's progress regarding Bill inquiries. It was further agreed that all communication from the Committee be addressed to the responsible Minister and cc'd to the Chief Executive Officer of the relevant Department.

***Draft Inquiry Plan – Animal Protection Bill***

Mrs Finocchiaro moved and Mr Paech seconded that the Committee:

- a) call for submissions on its inquiry into the Animal Protection Bill 2018 to be received by Friday, 9 March 2018, and
- b) write to the Minister for Primary Industry and Resources requesting a contact officer in relation to the Bill and inviting representatives from the Department to appear before the Committee at a public briefing from 3.00 pm to 3.30 pm on Monday, 19 February 2018.

**7. NEXT MEETING**

Public Hearing: 9.00 am - 4.30 pm, Wednesday, 14 February 2018 (end time to be confirmed following scheduling of witnesses)

Meeting closed at 1.55 pm



**Ms Ngaree Ah Kit, MLA  
Chair**



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY  
13<sup>th</sup> Assembly

SOCIAL POLICY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Meeting No.12**

1.00 pm, Monday, 19 February 2018  
Litchfield Room

**Present:** Ms Ngaree Ah Kit MLA, Chair, Member for Karama  
Ms Sandra Nelson MLA, Member for Katherine  
Mrs Lia Finocchiaro MLA, Member for Spillet

**Apologies:** Mrs Robyn Lambley MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Araluen  
Mr Chansey Paech MLA, Member for Namatjira

**Secretariat:** Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Annie McCall, Administration/Research Officer

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**1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Mrs Finocchiaro moved and Ms Nelson seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 10 of 8 February 2018 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

Ms Nelson moved and Mrs Finocchiaro seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 11 (Public Hearing) of 14 February 2018 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

**2. CORRESPONDENCE**

Mrs Finocchiaro moved and Ms Nelson seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of the answers to the Committee's written questions on the Domestic and Family Violence Amendment (Information Sharing) Bill and the Criminal Code Amendment (Intimate Images) Bill received from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice on 13 February 2018, subject to the Department's consent.

Question put and passed.

**3. DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE AMENDMENT (INFORMATION SHARING) BILL**

Ms Nelson moved and Mrs Finocchiaro seconded that:

The Chair's draft report detail the concerns raised by witnesses and recommend that the Bill not be passed until key stakeholders have been consulted appropriately and given an opportunity to comment on the proposed legislation, guidelines and regulations.

Question put and passed.

**4. CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT (INTIMATE IMAGES) BILL**

Mrs Finocchiaro moved and Ms Nelson seconded that:

The Chair's draft report incorporate proposed recommendations for further consideration by the Committee.

Question put and passed.

**5. ANIMAL PROTECTION BILL**

Inquiry plan finalised – Committee Secretary to schedule meetings accordingly.

**6. PUBLIC BRIEFING – ANIMAL PROTECTION BILL**

The following witnesses from the Department of Primary Industry and Resources appeared before the Committee:

Alistar Trier: Chief Executive

Michelle Rodan: Director Biosecurity and Animal Welfare

Peter Zeroni: Director Policy and Legislation

Peter Phillips: Director Animal Welfare

**7. NEXT MEETING**

Deliberative Meeting: 9.00 am, Monday 5 March 2018 – consideration of draft reports

Meeting closed at 3.35 pm



**Ms Ngaree Ah Kit, MLA  
Chair**



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY  
13<sup>th</sup> Assembly

SOCIAL POLICY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Meeting No.13**

2.00 pm, Wednesday, 7 March 2018  
Litchfield Room

**Present:** Ms Ngaree Ah Kit MLA, Chair, Member for Karama  
Mrs Robyn Lambley MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Araluen  
Ms Sandra Nelson MLA, Member for Katherine  
Mrs Lia Finocchiaro MLA, Member for Spillett

**Apologies:** Mr Chansey Paech MLA, Member for Namatjira

**Secretariat:** Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Annie McCall, Administration/Research Officer

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**1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Ms Nelson moved and Mrs Finocchiaro seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 13 of 19 February 2018 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

**2. CORRESPONDENCE**

Noted

**3. ADOPTION OF CHILDREN LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (EQUALITY) BILL**

Ms Nelson moved and Mrs Lambley seconded that:

The Committee adopt the Chair's draft report: *Inquiry into the Adoption of Children Legislation Amendment (Equality) Bill 2017*.

Question put and passed.

**4. CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT (INTIMATE IMAGES) BILL**

Consideration of Chair's draft report – Members agreed to provide any proposed changes to the Committee Secretary by close of business Thursday, 8 March for consideration at the next meeting.

**5. DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE AMENDMENT (INFORMATION SHARING) BILL**

Consideration of Chair's draft report – Members agreed to provide any proposed changes to the Committee Secretary by close of business Thursday, 8 March for consideration at the next meeting.

**6. OTHER BUSINESS**

***Animal Protection Bill Inquiry:*** submissions close Friday, 9 March. Following two requests for extensions the Committee agreed that, where requested, the Committee would accept late submissions. However, all submissions must be with the Committee by close of business, Monday 19 March for consideration at the Committee's meeting scheduled for 22 March.


***Bill Scrutiny Process:*** given time constraints, the Chair canvassed members' views on whether public briefings with Departments could be replaced by a written questions process. Members noted that, to date, they had found the public briefings very useful and were of the view that the current Bill scrutiny process was very robust and should be maintained.

**Public Hearings:** the Chair reminded members that they could hold public hearings on Wednesday mornings of sitting weeks. While it was agreed that this could be beneficial, members determined that holding a public hearing on the Animal Protection Bill during the March sittings was not feasible given the submission due date. It was also noted that it was anticipated that a full day would be required for hearing from witnesses on this particular Bill.

**7. NEXT MEETING**

Deliberative Meeting: 9.00 am, Monday, 12 March 2018 – adoption of draft reports

Meeting closed at 2.35 pm



**Ms Ngaree Ah Kit, MLA**  
**Chair**



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY  
13<sup>th</sup> Assembly

SOCIAL POLICY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Meeting No.15**

12.00 pm, Thursday, 22 March 2018  
Litchfield Room

- Present:** Ms Ngaree Ah Kit MLA, Chair, Member for Karama  
Ms Sandra Nelson MLA, Member for Katherine  
Mr Chansey Paech MLA, Member for Namatjira  
Mrs Lia Finocchiaro MLA, Member for Spillett
- Apologies:** Mrs Robyn Lambley MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Araluen
- Secretariat:** Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Russell Keith, First Clerk Assistant  
Annie McCall, Administration/Research Officer

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**1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Mr Paech moved and Mrs Finocchiaro seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 14 of 12 March 2018 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

**2. CORRESPONDENCE**

Noted.

**3. ANIMAL PROTECTION BILL INQUIRY**

Ms Nelson moved and Mrs Finocchiaro seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of all submissions with the exception of submission No. 5 which the author has requested be kept confidential.

Question put and passed.

Ms Nelson moved and Mrs Finocchiaro seconded that:

The Committee refer submission 31 to the Hon Gerald McCarthy MLA, Minister for Housing and Community Development for consideration and response to Ms Thompson and Mr Sedman.

Question put and passed.

Mrs Finocchiaro moved and Mr Paech seconded that:

The Committee invite representatives from the Department of Primary Industry and Resources, Charles Darwin University Animal Ethics Committee, Animals Australia, NT Cattlemen's Association Inc., the Animal Law Institute, the RSPCA, the Australian Veterinary Association, the Northern Land Council, and Mr Jean-Remi Campion to appear before the Committee at its public hearing on Monday, 9 April 2018.

Question put and passed.

Mrs Finocchiaro moved and Ms Nelson seconded that:

The Committee forward proposed questions of the Department to the Hon Ken Vowles MLA, Minister for Primary Industry and Resources for consideration ahead of the public hearing, requesting a response in writing by 9 April 2018 and seeking permission to publish the answers on the Committee's website.

Question put and passed.

It was further agreed that Members would forward any questions they have of the Department to the Chair by close of business on Monday, 26 March 2018.

**4. OTHER BUSINESS**

Updated Bill Inquiry Tracking Sheet noted.

**5. NEXT MEETING**

Public Hearing – 8.30 am to 4.30 pm Monday, 9 April 2018. End time to be confirmed.

Meeting closed at 12.39 pm



**Ms Ngaree Ah Kit, MLA  
Chair**



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**  
13<sup>th</sup> Assembly

**SOCIAL POLICY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Meeting No.16**

8.30 am, Monday, 9 April 2018  
Litchfield Room

**Present:** Ms Ngaree Ah Kit MLA, Chair, Member for Karama  
Mrs Robyn Lambley MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Araluen  
Ms Sandra Nelson MLA, Member for Katherine  
Mr Chansey Paech MLA, Member for Namatjira  
Mrs Lia Finocchiaro MLA, Member for Spillett

**Secretariat:** Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Annie McCall, Administration/Research Officer

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**1. PUBLIC HEARING**

**Animal Protection Bill Inquiry**

The following witnesses appeared before the Committee:

- Jean-Remi Campion – Private Citizen
- Professor Keith Christian – Chair, Charles Darwin University Animal Ethics Committee
- Paul Burke: Chief Executive Officer, Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Association
- Tom Ryan: Executive Officer, Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Association
- Katherine Russell: Research and Policy Officer, Animals Australia
- Dr Michael Caulfield: Principal Solicitor, The Animal Law Institute
- Dr Kim Smith: Territory President, Australian Veterinary Association
- Dr Alex Hesford: NT Committee Member, Australian Veterinary Association
- Graham Pratt: Regional Manager – Western Region, Australian Veterinary Association
- Danny Moore: Chair, RSPCA
- Dr Jed Goodfellow: Senior Policy Officer, RSPCA
- Kristen Lynch: Research and Policy Officer, Northern Land Council
- Alister Trier: Chief Executive Officer, Department of Primary Industry and Resources
- Ian Curnow: General Manager Fisheries and Product Integrity, Department of Primary Industry and Resources
- Peter Zeroni: Director Policy and Legislation, Department of Primary Industry and Resources
- Peter Phillips: Director Animal Welfare, Department of Primary Industry and Resources.

The Department provided its response to the Committee’s written questions and authorised that they be published on the Committee’s website.

The Committee adjourned at 2.10 pm.

**Ms Ngaree Ah Kit, MLA**  
**Chair**



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY  
13<sup>th</sup> Assembly

**SOCIAL POLICY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Meeting No.17**

1.00 pm, Monday, 16 April 2018  
Litchfield Room

**Present:** Ms Ngaree Ah Kit MLA, Chair, Member for Karama  
Mrs Robyn Lambley MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Araluen  
Ms Sandra Nelson MLA, Member for Katherine  
Mrs Lia Finocchiaro MLA, Member for Spillett

**Apologies:** Mr Chansey Paech MLA, Member for Namatjira

**Secretariat:** Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Russell Keith, First Clerk Assistant  
Annie McCall, Administration/Research Officer

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**1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Mrs Finocchiaro moved and Ms Ah Kit seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 15 of 22 March 2018 be confirmed

Question put and passed.

Mrs Lambley moved and Mrs Finocchiaro seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 16 of 9 April 2018 be confirmed

Question put and passed.

**2. CORRESPONDENCE**

Noted.

**3. ANIMAL PROTECTION BILL INQUIRY**

Consideration of evidence. The Committee agreed that the Chair's draft report include proposed recommendations as discussed.

**4. NEXT MEETING**

Deliberative Meeting: 1.00 pm, Monday 23 April or Thursday 26 April 2018 – to be confirmed

Meeting closed at 2.43 pm

**Ms Ngaree Ah Kit, MLA**  
**Chair**



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**  
13<sup>th</sup> Assembly

**SOCIAL POLICY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Meeting No.18**

1.00 pm, Thursday, 26 April 2018  
Litchfield Room

**Present:** Ms Ngaree Ah Kit MLA, Chair, Member for Karama  
Mrs Robyn Lambley MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Araluen  
Ms Sandra Nelson MLA, Member for Katherine  
Mrs Lia Finocchiaro MLA, Member for Spillett

**Apologies:** Mr Chansey Paech MLA, Member for Namatjira

**Secretariat:** Julia Knight, Committee Secretary  
Annie McCall, Administration/Research Officer

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**1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Mrs Lambley moved and Mrs Finocchiaro seconded that:

The Minutes of Meeting No. 17 of 16 April 2018 be confirmed

Question put and passed.

**2. ANIMAL PROTECTION BILL INQUIRY**

Ms Nelson moved and Mrs Finocchiaro seconded that:

The Committee adopt the Chair's draft report *Inquiry into the Animal Protection Bill 2018* as amended.

Question put and passed.

**3. NEXT MEETING**

Deliberative Meeting: 1.00 pm, Thursday 10 May 2018

Meeting closed at 1.25 pm

**Ms Ngaree Ah Kit, MLA**  
**Chair**