



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

THE NOTICE PAPER (WHAT'S ON THE AGENDA?)

Introduction

Except for the first sitting of a new Session of the Assembly (where there is no business before the Assembly), on each sitting day the Clerk publishes an agenda, which is called the Notice Paper, showing all business before the Assembly.

The Notice Paper is prepared by the Office of the Clerk and shows the proposed order in which the Assembly intends to proceed with business on each sitting day.

Although Notices of Motions and Orders of the Day may be set down on the Notice Paper for 'the next sitting day', it does not necessarily mean that these items will be dealt with on that particular day. The Assembly may, on motion without notice, postpone an item of business or, more likely, an item of business will not be reached during the course of a day's proceedings.

The Notice Paper also records information such as the membership of Assembly committees, Members of the Assembly appointed to various offices such as Speaker, Chairman of Committees and Deputy Chairman of Committees. This information is shown at the end of the Notice Paper.

The Notice Paper is published in a proof format late on the evening before the day of sitting and is available in its final form at approximately 9.00 am on each sitting day. Advance copies are available upon request. Occasionally, if a substantial rearrangement or error occurs in the draft of the Notice Paper, a revised version may be prepared and published before the Assembly meets. Any such revised edition is appropriately identified.

Government Business and General Business

For the purposes of definition, 'Government Business' means any business introduced by a Minister. Government Business Notices are those given by a Minister, for example notice to present a Bill. Notices given by all other Members are considered to be 'General Business' and are sometimes alternatively referred to as 'Private Members' Business'.

Notices

When a Member wishes to initiate a subject for discussion in the Assembly, s/he is required to give at least one day's notice at a previous sitting of the Assembly unless granted leave to initiate a matter forthwith. Notices of Motions are set down on the Notice Paper in the chronological order in which they are given.

The procedure for giving Notice of a Motion requires a Member to read it aloud when the Speaker asks: 'Are there any Notices?' when the Assembly reconvenes following the luncheon suspension. A signed and dated copy should be provided to the Clerk after a notice is given to the Assembly. The current practice is that Ministers may give consecutive Notices while other Members should only give one Notice in response to each call of the Chair. This procedure was adopted to give all non-ministerial Members of the Assembly an equal opportunity to give Notices. The Speaker usually recognizes the Leader of the Opposition immediately after Ministers. Once the Assembly proceeds to the routine of business, a Notice of Motion can only be given by leave of the Assembly.

A Notice may be set down for a specified future day and such Notices appear under specific dates in the Notice Paper where so given.

Other matters concerning Notices which are governed by Standing Orders include:

- A Member may give Notice on behalf of any other Member who is not present in the Assembly.
- If a Member wishes to change a date for moving a Motion s/he may give notice of the new date, but that date must not be earlier than the original date.
- If a Notice contains unbecoming language, the Speaker may refuse to have it printed, or the Assembly may order that it be expunged from the Notice Paper.

Notices are not considered the 'property' of the Assembly until they have been moved. Until such time as they are moved, a Member may withdraw the Notice, change the date for moving the Motion or amend the Motion, by leave.

Orders of the Day

An Order of the Day is a matter which the Assembly has ordered to be considered or further considered. A Notice of Motion, once moved, and on which debate has been adjourned, becomes an Order of the Day because the Assembly has ordered that the debate be adjourned until a later hour the same day, the next sitting day or to another specified day.

The majority of Orders of the Day are stages of Bills which are ordered for consideration on the next sitting day.

Unlike Notices, an Order of the Day is deemed to be in the possession of the Assembly and cannot be withdrawn or discharged except by resolution or leave of the Assembly.

Arrangement of Business on the Notice Paper

Standing Orders¹ prescribe the order in which certain items of business must be dealt with. Privilege matters take preference if given precedence by the Speaker. Precedence is given, by courtesy, to votes of thanks and condolence motions. Precedence is also given to motions of censure or want of confidence whenever proposed.

Standing Orders also provide for the Assembly to conduct General Business with precedence over Government Business on each Wednesday of a sitting week between 5.30pm and 9pm.

¹ The rules governing how the Assembly conducts its business.

Business of the Assembly

Some special items of business known as Business of the Assembly may take precedence of all other Motions and Orders of the Day. Such notices include motions touching the qualification of a Member, a motion to disallow, disapprove or declare void an instrument of a legislative or administrative character made under the authority of an Act, an Order of the Day for the presentation of a Report from a Standing or Sessional Committee, and a motion or Order of the Day for the appointment of a Standing or a Sessional Committee.

Matters of Public Importance

Debates on Matters of Public Importance (MPI) are provided for in the Standing Orders. However, because of the provisions of Standing Order 94 which provide for the notification of the proposed matter directly to the Speaker, the detail of a Matter of Public Importance does not appear on the Notice Paper at the start of the sitting day. The practice has developed for the detail of a proposed Matter of Public Importance to be distributed to all members at the commencement of a sitting day.

Government Business

Government Business can only be initiated by a Minister. Ministers may place Notices of Motions or take control of Orders of the Day relating to Government Business on the Notice Paper and the Government may order the arrangement of Government Business, Notices and Orders of the Day on the Notice Paper as the Chief Minister or another Minister (usually the Leader of Government Business) thinks fit.

On each sitting day, Government Business has precedence of General Business except on Wednesdays between 5.30 and 9pm. Business initiated by a Member who is not a Minister is sometimes known as 'Private Members' Business' and is recorded on the Notice Paper under General Business. General Business Notices are shown on the Notice Paper in the chronological order in which they were given, while General Business Orders of the Day are shown in the order in which they were first moved (see Outstanding Business below).

However, certain motions made by private Members may be classified as Business of the Assembly and accorded precedence of other business. For example, a motion to disallow a statutory instrument would be treated as Business of the Assembly. The conduct of General Business on those days specifically set aside is described below.

Committee Reports

Resolutions appointing Sessional or Standing Committees and establishing their Terms of Reference may contain a date for reporting. In accordance with such resolution, the Order of the Day for the Report of the Committee would appear on the Notice Paper before Government Business and General Business.

Notices and Orders set for Specific Days

On infrequent occasions, Notices and Orders are not set down for the next sitting day, but for a specific day in the future.

Outstanding Business

It is most likely that the Assembly will not consider all Notices and all Orders on the Notice Paper on any given sitting day. Those items dealt with during the sitting and expressly adjourned until the next sitting day or to another specific day become Orders for that particular day and will appear on the Notice Paper for that day in the order in which they were dealt with. Notices or Orders not reached on a sitting day are known as 'outstanding business'. These items remain on the Notice Paper until they have been disposed of and are carried forward to the next sitting day. They are placed on the Notice Paper by the Clerk at the end of business already set down for that particular day.

At the end of a Session, all business on the Notice Paper lapses and the next Session (or Assembly) begins with a 'clean' sheet.

Contingent Notices of Motion

On occasions Members may, by virtue of a contingent notice, circumvent the requirement for 24 hours notice or, in the case of urgent necessity for motions without notice, move for the suspension of Standing Orders, which requires an absolute majority of members voting.

General Business Days

As mentioned earlier, General Business is conducted with precedence over Government Business on each Wednesday of a sitting week between 5.30 and 9pm. General Business over Government Business is accorded after the Assembly first considers routine business on Wednesdays, in the following order:

1. Prayers
2. Petitions
3. Government Business – Notices and Orders of the Day
4. At 2 p.m. Notices
5. Questions
6. Government Business – Notices and Orders of the Day
7. Papers
8. Ministerial Statements
9. Discussion pursuant to Standing Order 94 (Matter of Public Importance)
10. **General Business** – 5.30pm to 9pm
11. Automatic Adjournment of the Assembly proposed at 9pm.

Apart from General Business, other avenues available to Private Members to raise matters are: Questions Without Notice; Written Questions; Matters of Public Importance (MPIs); debates on the motion for the Adjournment of the Assembly; and debates on the annual Appropriation Bill. An early opportunity is provided at the commencement of each session after an election by the debate on the Address-in-Reply to the Administrator's address to the new Assembly. Relevant Standing Orders and a sample of the Notice Paper are at Appendixes A and B.

Standing Orders - Chapter XI**NOTICES OF MOTION****101. NOTICES GIVEN**

A notice of motion may be given by a Member stating its terms to the Assembly when notices are called for, and delivering to the Clerk a copy of the motion signed by himself and showing the day proposed for moving the motion.

102. GIVEN BY PROXY

A Member, in the absence of another Member and at his request, may give a notice of motion for that other Member and shall put the name of such Member and his own signature on the notice.

103. AMENDMENT

After a notice of motion has been given, the terms thereof may be altered by the Member notifying the Assembly and delivering to the Clerk an amended notice, either on the same day or any day prior to that for proceeding with the motion, or he may withdraw the same by notifying the Assembly.

104. ORDER ON NOTICE PAPER

Notices shall be entered by the Clerk on the Notice Paper in the order in which they were delivered at the Table. A Member, except a Minister, may not give 2 notices consecutively if another Member has any notice to give.

105. DIVIDING INTO PARTS

If a notice of motion is given which contains matters not relevant to each other, the Speaker may instruct the Clerk to divide such notice into 2 or more notices.

106. NOT TO OFFEND AGAINST STANDING ORDERS

Any notice of motion containing unbecoming expressions, or which offends against any Standing Order, shall be amended by the Speaker before it appears upon the Notice Paper and, if necessary, the Speaker may determine that any such notice shall not be placed upon the Notice Paper.

107. CHANGE OF DAY FOR MOVING

A Member who has given notice of a motion may change the day proposed for moving the motion to a day subsequent to that first named by notifying the Clerk in writing prior to the calling on of the motion. The change of day shall be reported to the Assembly by the Clerk at the first convenient opportunity.

108. EFFECT OF NOTICE

With the exception of a notice of a motion given and accepted by a Minister pursuant to Standing Order 95, no notice or contingent notice shall have effect for the day on which it is given.

Standing Orders - Chapter XV

ORDERS OF THE DAY

152. DEFINITION

An order of the day is a bill or other matter which the Assembly has ordered to be taken into consideration on a particular day.

153. PRECEDENCE AND POSTPONEMENT

Orders of the day shall have precedence of each other according to the order in which they appear on the Notice Paper. An order of the day may be postponed on motion without notice moved by the Member in charge thereof, or, in his absence, by another Member at his request.

154. NOT CALLED ON

If, at the adjournment of the Assembly, any orders of the day on the Notice Paper have not been called on, such orders of the day shall be set down on the Notice Paper for the next sitting day.

155. DISCHARGE

An order of the day may be discharged by resolution of the Assembly.



NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

NOTICE PAPER

No. 43

TUESDAY

20 OCTOBER 2009

The Assembly
meets this day at 10am

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Notices

1. Mr Vatskalis: To present the Volatile Substance Abuse Prevention Amendment Bill 2009 (Serial71).
2. Ms Lawrie: To present the Racing and Betting Amendment Bill 2009 (Serial 65).
3. Mr Knight: To present the Local Government Grants Commission Amendment Bill 2009 (Serial 73).

Orders of the Day

1. **Hospital Boards Bill 2009** (Serial 57) (Mr Vatskalis): Second reading – resumption of debate. Consideration in Committee of the Whole (Dr Burns - Adjourned 19 October 2009).
2. **Indigenous Economic Development – Note Statement** (Mr Hampton): Resumption of debate on the motion – That the Assembly take note of the Statement (Adjourned 19 October 2009 – Mr Styles in continuation, 5 minutes remaining).
3. **Serious Crime Control Bill 2009** (Serial 48) (Ms Lawrie): Second reading – resumption of debate. (Adjourned 11 June 2009 - Ms Carney).
4. **Construction Industry Long Service Leave and Benefits Amendment Bill 2009** (Serial 58) (Ms Lawrie): Second reading – resumption of debate. (Adjourned 13 October 2009 – Mr Elferink).

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5. **Revenue Units Bill 2009** (Serial 64) (Ms Lawrie): Second reading – resumption of debate. (Adjourned 13 October 2009 – Mr Mills).
 6. **Assembly Members and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2009** (Serial 67) (Mr Henderson): Second reading – resumption of debate. (Adjourned 14 October 2009 – Mr Mills).
 7. **Education Amendment (Non-Government Schools) Bill 2009** (Serial 61) (Mr Henderson): Second reading – resumption of debate. (Adjourned 15 October 2009 – Mr Mills).
 8. **Education Amendment (Youth Participation) Bill 2009** (Serial 59) (Mr Henderson): Second reading – resumption of debate. (Adjourned 15 October 2009 – Mr Mills).
 9. **Fire and Emergency Legislation Amendment Bill 2009** (Serial 62) (Mr Henderson): Second reading – resumption of debate. (Adjourned 15 October 2009 – Mr Mills).

GENERAL BUSINESS

Notices

1. Ms Carney: To move - That, the Territory Government:
 1. Take direct and decisive action to address law and order issues in Alice Springs;
 2. Establish crime reduction targets for each year for the next five years and resource police and put in place the appropriate laws to ensure that such reductions are met;
 3. Establish a Police Citizens Youth Club in Alice Springs, and that it be located in the Larapinta area;
 4. Strengthen the *Youth Justice Act* to ensure that more Parental Responsibility Agreements and Orders are made and acted upon;
 5. Change the hours of the availability of alcohol so that all takeaway alcohol is sold from 10.00am.
2. Ms Carney: To move - That the Government:
 1. In recognition of the failure to invest in areas of social and sporting infrastructure, move immediately to upgrade facilities at Anzac Oval by demolishing the existing canteen and viewing area and replace it with a modern canteen, toilets, change rooms, and grandstand so that it meets the needs of local sporting clubs; and
 2. Ensures that Anzac Oval is a first class facility that will meet local and tourism needs for use in various community events, such as the Masters Games opening and closing ceremonies, concerts, sporting activities as part of show casing the Territory and what we have to offer.

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3. Ms Carney: To move - That the Territory Government:
1. Build a roundabout at Larapinta Drive and Lovegrove Drive Alice Springs, to be completed by the middle of 2010; and
 2. Note that failure to construct a roundabout will continue to see local motorists exposed to unnecessary danger.
4. Ms Carney: To move - That,
1. The Assembly acknowledge ongoing problems with some public housing tenants who continue to interfere with the quiet enjoyment of others by anti-social behaviour; and
 2. The Chief Minister show his support for Alice Springs by addressing public housing issues, including providing more public housing, and improve eviction processes for public housing tenants who breach the terms of their leases.
5. Mr Giles: To present the Criminal Code Amendment Bill 2009 (Serial 68).
6. Mr Giles: To present the Traffic Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2009 (Serial 69).
7. Mr Giles: To present the Traffic Amendment Bill (No. 3) 2009 (Serial 70).
8. Mr Conlan: To move – That this Assembly,
1. Acknowledge that Central Australians must have access to best practice cancer care and treatment; and
 2. Call on the Territory Government to ensure that Central Australians continue to have choice in accessing oncology services and support.
9. Mr Conlan: To move – That,
1. The Northern Territory Government immediately address the issues identified in the 2005 Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment special schools audit of Acacia Hill School and resolve with urgency the non compliant items listed in the audit; and
 2. The Northern Territory Government develop a masterplan for construction of a purpose built special education facility in Alice Springs.
10. Mr Wood: To move – That the Northern Territory Government –
- (a) support the development of rural residential land near the Alice Springs Airport as mentioned in the Draft Alice Springs Master Plan 2009;
 - (b) write to the Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon Anthony Albanese, requesting that he approve this aspect of the Master Plan as a priority; and

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- (c) request the Federal Minister for Infrastructure to allow the rural residential subdivision when developed to be rated by the Alice Springs Town Council in order that municipal services can be provided to residents of this subdivision.
11. Mr Wood: To move - That the Northern Territory Government investigates –
- (a) what land in the vicinity to the Alice Springs Goal could be used for a farm to create employment and grow food for and by the inmates;
- (b) the size of farm land required, suitability of soil types and the availability and the adequate supply of good quality water; and
- (c) the possibility of a separate prison farm in the Central Australia area.

Orders of the Day

1. **Public Authorities Advertising Bill 2008** (Serial 16) (Mr Mills): Second reading – resumption of debate. [Consideration postponed (Mr Mills), 18 August 2009].
2. **Aboriginal Land Amendment (Inter-tidal Waters) Bill 2008** (Serial 19) (Mr Westra van Holthe): Second reading – resumption of debate. [Consideration postponed (Mr Westra van Holthe), 18 August 2009].
3. **Traffic Amendment Bill 2009** (Serial 38) (Mr Giles): Second reading – resumption of debate. (Adjourned 18 August 2009 – Mr McCarthy).
4. **Ombudsman Amendment Bill 2009** (Serial 52) (Mr Mills): Second reading – resumption of debate. (Adjourned 18 August 2009 – Mr Henderson).
5. **Sentencing Legislation Amendment (Crime of Murder) Bill 2009** (Serial 55) (Mr Mills):): Second reading – resumption of debate. (Adjourned 18 August 2009 – Ms Lawrie).
6. **Criminal Code Amendment (Child Sexual Offence) Bill 2009** (Serial 50) (Ms Carney): Second reading – resumption of debate. (Adjourned 18 August 2009 – Ms Lawrie).
7. **Care and Protection of Children Amendment (Reporting Obligations) Bill 2009** (Serial 51) (Ms Carney):): Second reading – resumption of debate. (Adjourned 18 August 2009 – Ms McCarthy).

* Second reading subject to Standing Order 178

† Declared an urgent Bill pursuant to Standing Order 179

+ Standing Orders suspended

Cognate Bills

& Amendment Schedules

IAN McNEILL

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

SPEAKER

Honourable Jane Aagaard

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES AND DEPUTY SPEAKER

Ms Lynne Walker

DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

Mr Michael Gunner

Ms Marion Scrymgour

Whips

Mr Michael Gunner – Government

Ms Jodeen Carney – Opposition

COMMITTEES

Standing - Pursuant to Standing Orders

Committee of Members' Interests

Dr Burns (Chair - 17/02/09), Mrs Aagaard, Mr Gunner, Mr Conlan and Mr Styles

House

Mrs Aagaard, Ms Scrymgour, Ms Walker, Mr Bohlin and Mr Westra van Holthe

Privileges

Dr Burns, Ms Lawrie, Mr Vatskalis, Ms Carney and Mr Elferink

Public Accounts

Mr Gunner (Chair 12/02/2009), Dr Burns, Ms Walker, Mr Elferink, Mr Tollner and Mr Wood

Legal and Constitutional Affairs

Mrs Aagaard (Chair - 7 May 2009), Ms Scrymgour, Mr Gunner, Ms Purick and Mr Chandler

Standing Orders

Dr Burns (Chair - 17/02/09), Mrs Aagaard, Mr Gunner, Mr Conlan, Mr Styles Mr Wood.

Subordinate Legislation and Publications

Mr Gunner (Chair - 16/09/08), Ms Scrymgour, Ms Walker, Mr Giles and Mr Bohlin

Sessional

The Council of Territory Co-Operation

Mr Wood (Chair - 14/10/2009), Mr Gunner, Ms Scrymgour, Mr Westra van Holthe, Mr Elferink, Ms Anderson,

Environment and Sustainable Development

Ms Scrymgour (Chair - 18/02/09), Mr Gunner, Ms Walker, Mr Chandler, Mr Styles and Mr Wood