



## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### SPEAKER'S DETERMINATION NO 5 OF 2009

#### MEDIA COVERAGE OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS

I, JANE LESLEY AAGAARD, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory, pursuant to resolution of the Assembly of 26 February 1985 granting me the power to exercise powers and carry out functions associated with authorising broadcasting and re-broadcasting of proceedings in the Legislative Assembly hereby determine the following policy and procedures for the broadcasting and re-broadcasting of parliamentary proceedings

AND pursuant to subsequent Order of the Assembly dated 9 September 2008 authorising broadcasting and re-broadcasting by media organisations of excerpts of Legislative Assembly proceedings in accordance with the terms set out therein

HEREBY DETERMINE the following general conditions for media coverage of proceedings in the Assembly:

#### 1. GENERAL

- 1.1 All media organisations wishing to cover proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory must be accredited by the Speaker or the Speaker's delegate;
- 1.2 All individuals representing accredited media organisations to cover proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory must be accredited by the Speaker or the Speaker's delegate.



- 1.3 Accreditation may be granted by the Speaker or Speaker's delegate upon receipt of a written request on behalf of a licensed electronic or print media organisation and may include requests for individual accreditation for nominated staff members of that organisation.
- 1.4 A licensed electronic or print media organisation may seek enduring accreditation for itself and/or nominated staff members by the method outlined in 1.3 above;
- 1.5 An accredited media organisation may seek to vary individual accreditation by making the relevant request to the Speaker in writing;
- 1.6 By requesting and being granted accreditation, a media organisation and/or staff member representing an organisation implicitly undertakes to observe and comply with the conditions set out in this Determination;
- 1.7 The Speaker or Speaker's delegate may at any time revoke accreditation for any media organisation or any individual representing a media organisation.

## **2. DEFINITIONS**

- 2.1 'accredited' means an organisation or an individual representing that organisation, each of whom have been authorised by the Speaker or the Speaker's delegate as a Media/Press Gallery Member and who may carry out coverage of parliamentary proceedings pursuant to the conditions of this Determination;
- 2.2 'cover' means take notes or record by electronic means the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly subject to the limitations contained in this Determination. Coverage includes still and video photographic recordings and sound for electronic and print media and includes web cast of proceedings on the Legislative Assembly web site;
- 2.3 'electronic media' means licensed television and radio broadcasters and Internet-based news media;



- 2.4 'enduring accreditation' means authority to cover the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly pursuant to the conditions of this Determination for the life of that Assembly. That is, from the first time the Assembly convenes following a General Election until that Assembly is prorogued prior to the next General Election;
- 2.5 'galleries' means all galleries, both public and press/media, surrounding the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly;
- 2.6 'print media' means licensed publications, including newspapers and magazines;
- 2.7 'Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly' means the Routine of Business transacted by the Legislative Assembly on designated sitting days, including Estimates Committee and Government-Owned Corporations Scrutiny Committee proceedings.
- 2.8 'Questions without Notice' means Question Time in the Legislative Assembly, which usually runs from 2pm to 3pm each sitting day, but is subject to variation according to resolution of the Assembly in respect of the Routine of Business;
- 2.9 'record' means to take notes or use electronic means to capture proceedings of the Legislative Assembly subject to the limitations contained in this Determination. 'Record' includes still and video photographic vision and sound for electronic and print media and includes capturing the web cast of proceedings from the Legislative Assembly web site.
- 2.10 'report' means an excerpt of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly and any commentary broadcast on electronic media or a written account of proceedings of the Legislative Assembly in print media.



### **3. CONDITIONS OF BROADCASTING OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS AT QUESTION TIME**

- 3.1 Directions of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker or Acting Deputy Speaker on the floor of the Chamber shall be observed at all times;
- 3.2 That, unless otherwise ordered the Assembly, for the purposes of section 23 of the *Legislative Assembly (Powers and Privileges) Act*, the Speaker authorises the broadcasting by radio and television stations and Internet-based media organisations of Assembly proceedings in accordance with the following conditions:

*Conditions governing the broadcasting of excerpts of proceedings by radio and television stations and Internet based media organisations*

- (1) Access to the proceedings of the Assembly for the recording and broadcasting of proceedings is subject to an undertaking to observe, and to comply with, the following conditions and guidelines.
- (2) Recordings and broadcasts may be made only from the Legislative Assembly sound and vision monitoring system, unless otherwise approved by the Speaker or his or her delegates and in accordance with guidelines adopted by the Assembly from time to time.
- (3) Sound recordings and broadcasts from the Internet audio web cast of all Assembly Proceedings are authorised by an accredited organisation in accordance with guidelines and conditions determined by the Speaker.
- (4) Broadcasts of proceedings shall be used only for the purposes of fair and accurate reports of proceedings, and shall not be used for:
  - (a) political party advertising or election campaigns;
  - (b) satire or ridicule; or
  - (c) commercial sponsorship or commercial advertising.
- (5) Reports of proceedings shall be such as to provide a balanced presentation of differing views.



- (6) Excerpts of proceedings which are subsequently withdrawn may be broadcast only if the withdrawal is also reported.
  - (7) Excerpts must be placed in context. Commentators should identify Members, at least by name.
  - (8) Events in the galleries are not part of the proceedings and excerpts in relation to such events, as far as is practicable, should not be used.
  - (9) Qualified privilege only shall apply to accredited broadcasters in the use of excerpts.
  - (10) Where the excerpts are used on commercial networks, the station should try to ensure that advertising before and after excerpts is of an appropriate nature.
  - (11) Where the audio excerpts of proceedings are used on television, their use may be that of audio over still frames, or overlay material.
  - (12) The instructions of the Speaker or his or her delegates in respect of the broadcasting of excerpts, which are not inconsistent with these conditions, shall be observed.
  - (13) Non-compliance with the guidelines listed above may incur penalties.
- 3.3 Recording of a Member who has the call shall be no closer than a head-and-shoulders shot of the Member concerned;
- 3.4 Under no circumstances shall a recording be made of papers on a Member's desk, material on a Member's computer screen or any Member who does not have the call of the Speaker;
- 3.5 The only exception to Conditions 3.3 and 3.4 above is for wide shots of the entire Chamber that do not encroach on any Member's privacy, papers on the Member's desk or images on the Member's computer screen.
- 3.6 No record of parliamentary proceedings taken by electronic or print media organisations gathered in any way contrary to these conditions shall be broadcast or printed;



#### **4. CONDUCT OF ACCREDITED MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES**

- 4.1 Electronic instruments such as mobile telephones, pagers and modems must be switched off whilst media personnel are in the Chamber or galleries. Switching to 'silent' is not acceptable because it interferes with the Parliamentary sound and vision system;
- 4.2 Laptop computers are not permitted in the galleries at any time when the Assembly is sitting;
- 4.3 Media representatives shall observe silence whilst in the galleries and avoid any conduct that would draw attention to the galleries;
- 4.4 An appropriate dress standard shall be maintained whilst covering events in the Chamber;
- 4.5 No media representative shall signal or otherwise communicate (this includes text messaging) with camera operators on the floor of the Chamber;
- 4.6 Unacceptable conduct in the galleries includes draping items over the rail, standing in the doorway, conversing aloud and eating or drinking;
- 4.7 Accredited media representatives will be provided with access to Parliament House. The Director of Security should be contacted to arrange access;
- 4.8 Accredited media representatives shall not enter party rooms on Level 2 or the corridors adjacent to the Chamber on Level 2, nor shall they enter the dining areas, Members and Guests Lounge or CPA Lounge on Level 4 without the prior approval of the Speaker;
- 4.9 Media conferences and interviews are not permitted in the public areas of Parliament House.



## **5. DIRECT BROADCAST AND RE-BROADCAST OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS FROM INTERNET WEB STREAM**

- 5.1 Direct broadcast and re-broadcast of all parliamentary proceedings from the Internet web stream is authorised:
- (a) through the Northern Territory Government Intranet/Internet web cast network; and
  - (b) through the public broadcast network line from Parliament House via the Darwin Exchange Government narrowcast splitter network to government buildings and offices in the Northern Territory;
- 5.2 Direct broadcast and re-broadcast of proceedings from the Internet web stream is authorised to an approved broadcaster subject to the conditions set out in this Determination.

This authorisation does not extend to broadcast or re-broadcast by any third party, or to pooled/shared footage or unauthorised material provided by a third party.

## **6. PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE**

- 6.1 Failure to comply with the conditions set out in this Determination may result in imposition of penalties by the House Committee.

This DETERMINATION supersedes Speaker's Determination No 3 of 2009.

DATED this *8th* DAY of *October* 2009.

  
JANE AAGAARD  
Speaker