



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

ELEVENTH ASSEMBLY

SESSIONAL ORDERS

AND

ORDERS

In force as at 10 June 2009

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Times of Meeting of the Assembly - Sessional Order

That, during the present session of the Assembly, the Speaker may appoint, at her discretion and notwithstanding any previous resolution of the Assembly, a day and/or time for the holding of a sitting of the Assembly, which day and/or time shall be notified to each Member in writing.

**Motion moved by Leader of Government Business (Ms Lawrie), agreed to 9 September 2008.*

NOTE: Standing Order 31A limits the power of the Speaker to set an alternative day or time for when the Assembly is not sitting. Until this Sessional Order lapses or is rescinded this Sessional Order stands.

[First Report of Standing Orders Committee, 11th Assembly adopted 26 November 2008]

Public Accounts Committee – Appointment of Membership - Sessional Order

The Leader of Government Business (Ms Lawrie), by leave, moved - That, notwithstanding anything contained in the Standing Orders, during the present Session of the Assembly there be six members appointed to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, three nominated by the Chief Minister; two nominated by the Leader of the Opposition; and the Independent member: and the following Members be appointed to that Committee: Mr McCarthy, Ms Walker, Mr Gunner, Mr Elferink, Mr Tollner and Mr Wood, and that the Committee shall elect a government Member as Chairman.

[Motion moved and agreed to 9 September 2008]

Public Accounts Committee - Appointment of Alternate Members - Sessional Order

ALTERNATE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Appointment

(1A) Alternate Members of the Public Accounts Committee may be appointed, either on motion in the Legislative Assembly or when the Assembly is not sitting:

Alternate Government and Opposition Members shall be nominated for appointment in writing respectively by the Chief Minister or Leader of the Opposition to the Speaker.

Advice to Chair

(1B) The Speaker shall advise the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee in writing of any Alternate Members being nominated and cause the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee to inform

other Committee Members of any alternate membership nominations as soon as possible.

Advice to the Assembly

(1C) The Speaker shall report the appointment of Alternate Members to the Assembly at the next sitting of the Assembly.

Voting at Deliberative Meetings

(1D) Any appointed Alternate Opposition Member may participate in a meeting of the Committee as if he or she were a full member provided that only two Opposition Committee members shall attend and vote at a deliberative meeting of the Committee.

(1E) Any appointed Alternate Government Member may participate in a meeting of the Committee as if he or she were a full member provided that only three Government Members shall attend and vote at a deliberative meeting of the Committee.

* Motion moved and agreed to 10 June 2009.

Sessional Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development – Appointment of Membership – Terms of Reference – Motion Agreed to:

The Leader of Government Business (Ms Lawrie), by leave, moved the following two motions -

Appointment of Membership

That, during the present Session of the Assembly:

1. A Sessional Committee to be known as the Environment and Sustainable Development Committee be appointed;
2. The membership of the Environment and Sustainable Development Committee comprise three government members, two members of the opposition and one independent member;
3. The following members, unless otherwise ordered, be appointed to the Committee: Ms Walker, Mr Gunner, Mr McCarthy, Mr Chandler, Mr Styles and Mr Wood; and
4. The Committee shall elect a government member as Chairman.

Establishment of Environment and Sustainable Development Committee - Terms of Reference

That, during the present Session of the assembly -

- (1) the Environment and Sustainable Development Committee shall be empowered, unless otherwise ordered, to inquire into and from time to time report upon and make recommendations on matters referred to it by the relevant minister or resolution of the Legislative Assembly:
 - (a) any matter concerned with the environment or how the quality of the environment might be protected or improved; and
 - (b) any matter concerned with the sustainable development of the Northern Territory.
- (2) the Committee be empowered to send for persons, papers and records, to sit in public or in private session notwithstanding any adjournment of the Assembly, to adjourn from place to place and have leave to report from time to time its proceedings and the evidence taken and make such interim recommendations as it may deem fit, and to publish information pertaining to its activities from time to time;
- (3) the Committee be empowered to consider, disclose and publish the Minutes of Proceedings, evidence taken and records of similar Committees appointed in previous assemblies;
- (4) the Committee be empowered to publish from day to day such papers and evidence as may be ordered by it and, unless otherwise ordered by the Committee, a daily *Hansard* be published of such proceedings as to take place in public;
- (5) the Committee have power to appoint subcommittees consisting of two or more of its members and to refer to any such subcommittee any matter which the Committee is empowered to examine and that the quorum of a subcommittee shall be two; and
- (6) the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the Standing Orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the Standing Orders.

[Motion moved and agreed to 9 September 2008]

Broadcasting and Televising of Assembly Proceedings

That, unless otherwise ordered, this Assembly, for the purposes of section 23 of the *Legislative Assembly (Powers and Privileges) Act*,

- (1) authorizes—
 - (a) the direct public broadcasting and or televising;
 - (b) the recording and rebroadcasting and or repeat televising;
and
 - (c) the filming and screening,

of the whole or part of the proceedings of the Assembly or its committees on such occasions and under such rules as the Speaker may, from time to time, determine; and

- (2) as soon as possible after each such determination has been made, the Speaker report his/her action to the Assembly.

**Motion moved by the Leader of Government Business, (Mr Hanrahan) agreed to 26 February 1985.*

Broadcast and Rebroadcast of Assembly Proceedings

That, unless otherwise ordered the Assembly, for the purposes of section 23 of the *Legislative Assembly (Powers and Privileges) Act*, authorises the broadcasting by radio and television stations and Internet broadcasters of excerpts of its proceedings in accordance with the following conditions:

Conditions governing the broadcasting of excerpts of proceedings by radio and television stations

- (1) Access to the proceedings of the Assembly for the recording and broadcasting of excerpts 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 and vision recordings and broadcasts are restricted to Questions, unless otherwise ordered or otherwise approved by the Speaker or his or her delegates.

- (3A) Sound recordings and broadcasts from the Internet audio sound stream of all Assembly Proceedings are authorised by an Approved Broadcaster in accordance with guidelines and conditions determined by the Speaker.
- (4) Broadcasts of excerpts 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 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.

**Motion moved by Leader of Government Business (Ms Lawrie), agreed to 9 September 2008.*

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

SPEAKER'S DETERMINATION NO. 12 of 2008

BROADCASTING OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS

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

Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings at Question Time and Additional Answers given following Question Time

Excerpts of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly, Questions without Notice and Additional Answers to such Questions given at the end of Question Time shall be authorised for broadcasting direct or re-broadcast by an approved licensed broadcaster on the presentation of a written request to and with the approval of the Speaker.

The conditions governing the broadcasting of excerpts of proceedings by radio and television stations shall be as follows:

- (1) Access to the proceedings of the Assembly for the recording and broadcasting of excerpts 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/ her delegate;
- (3) Recordings and broadcasts are restricted to Questions, unless otherwise ordered or approved by the Speaker or his/her delegate;
- (4) Broadcasts of excerpts shall be used only for the purposes of the fair and accurate reporting 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 must 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;

Witnesses Appearing Before Committees—Guidelines

That, unless otherwise ordered and not withstanding anything contained in the Standing Orders, the following procedures be followed by Committees of the Assembly when dealing with witnesses and prospective witnesses:

- (1) a witness shall be invited to attend a Committee meeting to give evidence: A witness shall be summoned to appear (whether or not the witness was previously invited to appear) only where the Committee has made a decision that the circumstances warrant the issue of a summons;
- (2) where the Committee desires that a witness produce documents relevant to the Committee's inquiry, the witness shall be invited to do so, and an order that documents be produced shall be made (whether or not an invitation to produce documents has previously been made) only where the Committee has made a decision that the circumstances warrant such an order;
- (3) a witness shall be given reasonable notice of a meeting at which the witness is to appear, and shall be supplied with a copy of the Committee's terms of reference, a statement of the matters expected to be dealt with during the witness's appearance, and a copy of these procedures: Where appropriate, a witness may be supplied with a transcript of relevant evidence already taken;
- (4) if possible, a witness shall be given opportunity to make a submission in writing before appearing to give oral evidence;
- (5) where appropriate, reasonable opportunity shall be given for a witness to raise any matters of concern to the witness relating to the witness's submission or the evidence the witness is to give before the witness appears at a meeting;
- (6) a witness shall be given reasonable access to any documents that the witness has produced to the Committee;
- (7) a witness shall be offered, before giving evidence, the opportunity to make application, before or during the hearing of the witness's evidence, for any or all of the witness's evidence to be heard in private session, and shall be invited to give reasons for any such application: If the application is not granted, the witness shall be notified of reasons for that decision;
- (8) only in the most extraordinary circumstances shall the Committee table in the Assembly or publish evidence given in private session and before giving any evidence in private session, a witness shall be informed that it is within the power of the Committee to authorise publication of such evidence and that the Assembly has the power to order the production and publication of such evidence;

- (9) a Member, in a protest or dissent added to a report, shall not disclose evidence taken in camera unless so authorised by the Committee;
- (10) should the Committee consider it essential that evidence given or information received in private session be published or that it is essential that such evidence or information be included in the Committee's report the Chairman or Secretary of the Committee shall make every effort to discuss the matter with the relevant witness in an effort to minimise any potential damage to the witness which may flow from that publication or usage;
- (11) the Chairman shall take care to ensure that all questions put to witnesses are relevant to the Committee's inquiry and that the information sought by those questions is necessary for the purpose of that inquiry: Where a Member of the Committee requests discussion of a ruling of the Chairman on this matter, the Committee shall deliberate in private session and determine whether any question which is the subject of the ruling is to be permitted;
- (12) where a witness objects to answering any question put to the witness on any ground, including the ground that the question is not relevant or that the answer may incriminate the witness, the witness shall be invited to state the ground upon which objection to answering the question is taken. Unless the Committee determines immediately that the question should not be pressed, the Committee shall then consider in private session whether it will insist upon an answer to the question, having regard to the relevance of the question to the Committee's inquiry and the importance to the inquiry of the information sought by the question: If the Committee determines that it requires an answer to the question, the witness shall be informed of that determination and the reasons for the determination, and shall be required to answer the question only in private session, unless the Committee determines that it is essential to the Committee's inquiry that the question be answered in public session; and

where a witness declines to answer a question to which the Committee has required an answer, the Committee shall report the facts to the Assembly;
- (13) where a Committee has reason to believe that evidence about to be given may reflect adversely on a person, the Committee shall give consideration to hearing that evidence in private session;
- (14) where a witness gives evidence reflecting adversely on a person and the Committee is not satisfied that that evidence is relevant to the Committee's inquiry, the Committee shall give consideration to expunging that evidence from the transcript of evidence, and to forbidding the publication of that evidence;

- (15) where evidence is given which reflects adversely on a person and action of the kind referred to in paragraph (14) is not taken in respect of the evidence, the Committee shall provide reasonable opportunity for that person to have access to that evidence and to respond to that evidence by written submission and appearance before the Committee.
- (16) a witness may make application to be accompanied by counsel and to consult counsel in the course of a meeting at which the witness appears: In considering such an application, the Committee shall have regard to the need for the witness to be accompanied by counsel to ensure the proper protection of the witness: If an application is not granted, the witness shall be notified of reasons for that decision;
- (17) a witness accompanied by counsel shall be given reasonable opportunity to consult counsel during a meeting at which the witness appears;
- (18) an officer of a department of the Territory or of the Commonwealth shall not be asked to give opinions on matters of policy and shall be given reasonable opportunity to refer questions asked of the officer to superior officers or to a Minister;
- (19) reasonable opportunity shall be afforded to witnesses to make corrections of errors of transcription in the transcript of their evidence and to put before the Committee additional material supplementary to their evidence; and
- (20) where the Committee has any reason to believe that any person has been improperly influenced in respect of evidence which may be given before the Committee, or has been subjected to or threatened with any penalty or injury in respect of any evidence given, the Committee shall take all reasonable steps to ascertain the facts of the matter: Where the Committee considers that the facts disclose that a person may have been improperly influenced or subjected to or threatened with penalty or injury in respect of evidence which may be or has been given before the Committee, the Committee shall report the facts and its conclusions to the Assembly.

**Motion moved by Mr Palmer (Chairman of Public Accounts Committee), agreed to 20 August 1992.*

Privileges Committee—Guidelines for Precedence of other business

Notwithstanding anything contained in the Standing Orders, and unless otherwise ordered, in determining whether a motion arising from a matter of privilege should have precedence of other business, the Speaker shall have regard only to the following criteria:

- (a) that principle that the Assembly's power to adjudge and deal with contempts should be used only where it is necessary to provide reasonable protection for the Assembly and its committees and for Members against improper acts tending substantially to obstruct them in the performance of their functions and should not be used in respect of matters which appear to be of a trivial nature or unworthy of the attention of the Assembly; and
- (b) the existence of any remedy other than that power for any act which may be held to be a contempt.

**Recommendation from Second Report of Standing Orders Committee, motion adopting report agreed to 23 May 1996.*

Privileges Committee—Witness Protection Procedures

That, in consideration of any matter referred to it which may involve, or gives rise to any allegation of, a contempt, the Committee of Privileges shall observe the procedures set out in this resolution, in addition to the procedures required by the Assembly for the protection of witnesses before committees. Where this resolution is inconsistent with the procedures required by the Assembly for the protection of witnesses, this resolution shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

- (1) A person shall, as soon as practicable, be informed, in writing, of the nature of any allegations, known to the Committee and relevant to the Committee's inquiry, against the person, and of the particulars of any evidence which has been given in respect of the person.
- (2) The Committee shall extend to that person all reasonable opportunity to respond to such allegations and evidence by:
 - (a) making written submission to the Committee;
 - (b) giving evidence before the Committee;
 - (c) having other evidence placed before the Committee; and
 - (d) having witnesses examined before the Committee.

- (3) Where oral evidence is given containing any allegation against, or reflecting adversely on, a person, the Committee shall ensure as far as possible that that person is present during the hearing of that evidence, and shall afford all reasonable opportunity for that person, by counsel or personally, to examine witnesses in relation to that evidence.
- (4) A person appearing before the Committee may be accompanied by counsel, and shall be given all reasonable opportunity to consult counsel during that appearance.
- (5) A witness shall not be required to answer in public session any question where the Committee has reason to believe that the answer may incriminate the witness.
- (6) Witnesses shall be heard by the Committee on oath or affirmation.
- (7) Hearing of evidence by the Committee shall be conducted in public session, except where:
 - (a) the Committee accedes to a request by a witness that the evidence of that witness be heard in private session;
 - (b) the Committee determines that the interests of a witness would best be protected by hearing evidence in private session; or
 - (c) the Committee considers that circumstances are otherwise such as to warrant the hearing of evidence in private session.
- (8) The Committee may appoint, on terms and conditions approved by the Speaker, counsel to assist it.
- (9) The Committee may authorise, subject to rules determined by the Committee, the examination by counsel of witnesses before the Committee.
- (10) As soon as practicable after the Committee has determined findings to be included in the Committee's report to the Assembly, and prior to the presentation of the report, a person affected by those findings shall be acquainted with the findings and afforded all reasonable opportunity to make submissions to the Committee, in writing and orally, on those findings. The Committee shall take such submissions into account before making its report to the Assembly.
- (11) The Committee may recommend to the Speaker the reimbursement of costs of representation of witnesses before the Committee. Where the Speaker is satisfied that a person would suffer substantial hardship due to liability to pay the costs of representation of the person before the Committee, the Speaker may make reimbursement of all or part of such costs as the Speaker considers reasonable.
- (12) Before appearing before the Committee a witness shall be given a copy of this resolution.

**Recommendation from Second Report of Standing Orders Committee, motion adopting report agreed to 23 May 1996*

Freedom of Speech

- (1) That the Assembly considers that, in speaking in the Assembly or in a committee, Members should take the following matters into account:
 - (a) The need to exercise their valuable right of freedom of speech in a responsible manner;
 - (b) The damage that may be done by allegations made in Parliament to those who are the subject of such allegations and to the standing of parliament;
 - (c) The limited opportunities for persons other than members of Parliament to respond to allegations made in parliament;
 - (d) The need for Members, while fearlessly performing their duties, to have regard to the rights of others; and
 - (e) The desirability of ensuring that statements reflecting adversely on persons are soundly based.
- (2) That the Speaker, whenever the Speaker considers that it is desirable to do so, may draw the attention of the Members to the spirit and the letter of this resolution.

**Recommendation from Fourth Report of Standing Orders Committee, motion adopting report agreed to 5 May 2005.*

Debate on motions and amendments to motions

The basic rule of debate which applies is that unless there is a right of reply (or in committee) no Member may speak more than once to the same question.

Other rules include:

- (1) When a Member speaks and concludes the speech without moving an amendment, the Member cannot subsequently move an amendment.
- (2) A Member who has spoken to a question, or has moved an amendment to the question, may not be called to move another amendment (or to adjourn debate) but may speak to a further amendment proposed by another Member.
- (3) A Member who moves an amendment may not speak again on the original question after the amendment has been disposed of having spoken to the original question when it was before the Assembly.
- (4) After an amendment has been moved any Member speaking subsequently is taken to have spoken to the original question and the amendment – and therefore cannot speak again to the original question after the amendment has been disposed of.
- (5) A Member who has already spoken to the original question prior to the moving of an amendment may speak to the question on the amendment but must confine remarks to the amendment.
- (6) A Member who has spoken to the original question and an amendment may speak to the question on any further amendment but must confine remarks to the further amendment.

**Recommendation from Fourth Report of Standing Orders Committee, motion adopting report agreed to 5 May 2005.*

Parliamentary Pairs

That unless otherwise ordered the following arrangements for the administration of Parliamentary Pairs be an Order of the Assembly:

1. The operation of a system of Parliamentary Pairs be managed by the Government and Opposition Whips.
2. Details of the names of paired members be sent to the Table Office by the Government Whip's office prior to the commencement of a sitting week or as soon as possible following each division.
3. The details of any pairs be published in the Minutes of Proceedings and the Parliamentary Record.
4. The administration of the arrangements for the Parliamentary Pairs system be subject to the following guidelines:

Method of Application

An application for a 'pair' shall be made where possible in writing to the Whip of the opposing political party in the Assembly i.e. by a Government Member, through the Government Whip, to the Opposition Whip or Independent member and by an Opposition member, through the Opposition whip, or Independent Member to the Government Whip.

In the case of sickness or pressing personal reasons (family sickness, bereavement etc) verbal notification to the opposing Whip or independent member shall be sufficient.

Method of Approval

Approval of a 'pair' shall be given in writing by the opposing Whip or Independent Member to the applicant and a copy forwarded to his/her Leader for information.

Approval to be Binding

Once an application for a "pair" has been approved in writing it is binding on all parties for all business before the Assembly for the duration of the period for which the "pair" application has been approved.

Reasons for Pair

"Pairs" should be granted in the event of personal or family sickness, bereavements and attendance at Ministerial Council and related meetings and inter-parliamentary conferences.

Cessation of Pairs

Should any Member be found to be in violation of the conditions for which his/her "pair" has been approved the "pair" shall cease from a time mutually agreed by the Government and Opposition Whip.

Should any difficulty be experienced in relation to the arrangement for the 'cessation of pairs' the Chief Minister, Leader of the Opposition and respective Whips will meet to further consider the matter.

1. In the event that a violation of the agreed "Pairing" arrangement is drawn to the attention of the Speaker at the time of a division in the Assembly the Speaker may suspend the further consideration of the item of business before the Assembly forthwith and until further notice.

**Motion moved by the Leader of Government Business, (Ms Lawrie) agreed to 9 September 2008.*

Incorporation of Material in the Hansard Record

That, unless otherwise ordered, a Member may have material incorporated in the *Daily Hansard* and *parliamentary Record* subject to leave granted by the Speaker in accordance with rules and guidelines which the Speaker shall table from time to time.

**Adopted 26 November 2008, First report of Standing Orders Committee, 11th Assembly*

Rules and Guidelines for Incorporation of Material in the Hansard Record

Conditions for incorporation of material in the Hansard record:

Written material proposed by Members for incorporation in the Hansard record must conform with the rules established by the Assembly for parliamentary debate generally set out in Chapter VII of Standing Orders.

In giving leave for incorporation of written material the Speaker will take into account the rules of debate and established parliamentary practice including but not limited to whether it -

- reflects upon any vote of the Assembly (SO 60);
- conforms with (SO 61) requiring proper use of the Queen's, Queen's representative or Administrator's name;
- would be a contravention of (SO 62), containing offensive or unbecoming words, directly or indirectly or by innuendo imputes to another Member unbecoming conduct or motives etc;
- would be or has been adjudged as unparliamentary language or disorderly.

Freedom of Speech:

Members should be mindful of the need to exercise their valuable right of freedom of speech in a responsible manner and accordingly ensure that their use of naming and reflecting adversely on persons is soundly based and done in a responsible manner. (Resolution, dated 5 May 2005)

Delivery:

1. Electronically delivered via email - la.speaker@nt.gov.au - to the Office of the Speaker by **10pm** of the day before the day of proposed incorporation; and
2. In Word format and style contained in attached **style format**.

Release of Committee Evidence

That—

- (1) the Legislative Assembly authorizes the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly to permit any person to examine and take extracts from evidence submitted to, or documents and records of, committees of the Legislative Council, and the Legislative Assembly, which are in the custody of the Legislative Assembly and which have been in its custody for at least 5 years: provided that such evidence was not taken in camera or that such documents and records are not of a confidential or restricted nature; and provided further that the Speaker report to the Assembly each disclosure of evidence and or documents and records permitted pursuant to this resolution and the person or persons to whom disclosure has been made; and
- (2) the foregoing resolution has effect notwithstanding anything contained in standing orders.

**Motion moved by the Attorney-General (Mr Robertson), agreed to 22 August 1984.*

Legal and Constitutional Affairs – Reference

That,

- (1) The Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs shall inquire, consider, make recommendations and report to the Assembly from time to time on:
 - (a) any matter concerned with legal or constitutional issues, including law reform, parliamentary reform, administrative law, legislative review and inter-governmental relations;
 - (b) the legal or constitutional relationship between the Northern Territory and the Commonwealth;
 - (c) any proposed changes to that legal or constitutional relationship, including the admission of the Northern Territory as a new State of the Commonwealth; or
 - (d) any proposed changes to the Commonwealth *Constitution* that may affect the Northern Territory and/or its residents.
 - (e) with the approval of the Attorney-General, any other matter concerning the relationship between the Northern Territory and the Commonwealth and/or the States in the Australian federation;
- (2) The Committee may meet with any other State or Commonwealth parliamentary committees to inquire into matters of mutual concern.
- (3) The Northern Territory Statehood Steering Committee continues in existence with the same membership and terms of reference adopted by the Ninth Assembly on 17 August 2004 and as amended on 24 March 2005.
- (4) Resolutions or business transacted by the previous Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee are taken to be the resolutions of this committee, unless otherwise amended.
- (5) The Committee shall report to the Assembly as soon as possible after 30 June each year on its activities during the preceding financial year.

**Motion moved by Leader of Government Business (Mr Henderson), agreed to 9 September 2008.*

Sessional Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development - Reference

Further, pursuant to the resolution of the Assembly of 09 September establishing the Committee, the Committee received a Reference from the Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage to inquire into and report upon:

- (1) The Northern Territory's capacity to progress agricultural production in an environmentally sustainable manner.
 - (2) In its Inquiry the Committee will:
 - (a) consider the environmental issues, including opportunities and constraints, facing various types of agricultural production in the different geographical and climatic areas of the Northern Territory;
 - (b) examine best practice agricultural production in the Territory and other locations with similar geographical and climatic characteristics to that of the Territory and the ways in which best practice can be supported through appropriate policy, regulation and education;
 - (c) draw upon existing and emerging scientific research from a wide range of sources;
 - (d) consult widely with relevant stakeholder groups;
 - (e) adopt an inquiry methodology that considers long-term, inter-generational impacts of agricultural production on the Territory's environment;
 - (f) include an analysis of carbon reduction schemes and their likely impact on agricultural enterprise in the Northern Territory;
 - (g) examine the current and possible future contribution of agriculture and agricultural-based products to the Northern Territory economy, including the provision of employment and enterprise opportunities to indigenous people living in remote and regional areas;
 - (h) examine implications of progressing agricultural production on other enterprises reliant upon the natural environment; and
 - (i) as a result of the Committee's inquiries and analysis, recommend relevant strategies to progress agricultural production in an environmentally sustainable manner.
-