



## CPA Australian Region Conference November 2021 Northern Territory Jurisdictional Update

### The Legislative Assembly

A general election was held on 20 August 2020. Following a by-election in August 2021, the 25 Members Legislative Assembly is comprised as follows:

- 15 Territory Labor Party Members\*
- 7 Country Liberal Party Members
- 3 independent Members

\*One Territory Labor Party was excluded from the Caucus in February 2021

### First Female First Nations Presiding Officer

Following the general election, the Hon Ngaree Ah Kit MLA was appointed as Acting Speaker by Her Honour the Administrator in accordance with the provisions of the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978* (Cth).

The Hon Ngaree Ah Kit MLA was elected as Speaker on 20 October 2020. She had been elected as Deputy Speaker in the previous Assembly.

### Standing and Sessional Orders

Following substantial review during the 12<sup>th</sup> Assembly, modernised Standing Orders were published in 2016. There was ongoing consideration during the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly with seven reports submitted to the Assembly addressing a variety of matters. This resulted in the adoption of a variety of new Sessional Orders creating legislation scrutiny committees and requiring human rights compatibility statements to be tabled when Bills were introduced.

A review of Standing Orders for the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly was undertaken but not finalised due to COVID-19. Aspects of that review became obsolete on the adoption of 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly Sessional Orders which deleted many Sessional Orders which had been adopted in the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

In September 2021 the Assembly adopted a report of the Standing Orders Committee which recommended changes to practice for the amendment of notices and adjournment statements.

### Independent Commissioner Against Corruption (ICAC)

On Tuesday 23 June 2020, the Hon Chanston Paech MLA, tabled an ICAC investigation report into the conduct of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. The report resulted in the resignation of Ms Kezia Purick MLA as Speaker.

The Hon Ngaree Ah Kit MLA has tabled two reports updating the Assembly on the implementation of recommendations arising from this report, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10070/809303> and <https://hdl.handle.net/10070/835738>.

*The Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act 2017* provides for “a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Legislative Assembly and the ICAC in relation to parliamentary privilege”. The Department of the Legislative Assembly has commenced officer level discussions with the ICAC to develop a MoU. In October 2021, the Hon Ngaree Ah Kit MLA distributed a briefing note to all Members providing advice about issues for consideration in the development of the MoU.