Natasha Fyles
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

Reforms to the Legislative Assembly

13 October 2016

Leader of Government Business Natasha Fyles today announced changes to the process of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly, aimed at creating a more open and accountable parliament.

The Government has already confirmed our support for the current Independent Speaker, in line with the discussion paper we released before the election.

Having consulted with the community, we will be making the following changes:

- The Register of Members’ Interests will be made available online, for any member of the public to see. Currently, there is only one copy of members’ interests available in Parliament house.

- The Government will also propose to the parliament that questions from the Government, so called “Dorothy Dixers”, will not be asked on Wednesdays, meaning the Opposition and independents will be given the full hour of question time to scrutinise the government.

- The Government will be moving that a select committee be formed, including opposition and cross-bench members, to investigate parliamentary reform including improving question time, scrutiny of legislation and public participation.

“These changes have been developed with a view to placing more scrutiny on government, and to insuring open and transparent government.” Ms Fyles said

“The previous Government would routinely rush legislation through on urgency and failed to consult with the community and with the parliament on their bills.

“Territorians need to have trust and confidence in their parliament, these changes will go a long way to providing that trust.”

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