

Parliamentary Agreement

THIS AGREEMENT is made on the 14th day of August 2009

BETWEEN Hon Paul Henderson MLA, Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

AND Mr Gerry Wood MLA, Independent Member for Nelson

The aim of this Agreement is to:

- Provide for stable government for the people of the Northern Territory.
- Enhance Parliamentary democracy and to ensure an accountable and transparent government, public service and Parliament.
- Provide for Mr Wood to be consulted in areas of Government policy and also issues where he has specific interest.

AGREE to the following for the current term of the Legislative Assembly:

1. Provided that all Labor Government MLAs continue to support the Government, vote in favour of its legislation and Paul Henderson retains the position of Chief Minister, Mr Wood shall vote:
 - In favour of Government Supply and *Appropriation Bills*;
 - Against any no-confidence motion in the Government, except in a proven case of corruption or serious maladministration.
2. To enhance inclusion and transparency in decision making, in consultation with Opposition and other MLAs, the Government shall ;(i) form a Council of Territory Cooperation comprised of 2 Government Members, 2 Opposition Members and at least one Independent Member ; (ii) commit to reforms of Parliamentary procedures; and (iii) progress the matters in Appendix A and any matters added by agreement.
3. To hold monthly meetings with the Chief Minister, the Hon Paul Henderson MLA to review progress of agreement and add items to Appendix A as agreed.
4. The items identified on Appendix A shall be advanced in line with the process and timeframes outlined.
5. The parties will, in the event of a perceived non-adherence to this agreement, notify the other party in writing immediately with a view to the Chief Minister and Mr Wood rectifying the situation or agreeing to a mechanism to resolve the dispute.



PAUL HENDERSON
CHIEF MINISTER



GERRY WOOD
INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR NELSON

CHANGE POLITICAL CULTURE

The approach and mechanisms of governance in the Northern Territory are often overly Party political and adversarial in nature. There should be enhanced recognition of the contribution that can be made by all MLAs and those from the broader Territory community to devising approaches to tackle the important issues facing the Territory.

MLAs, Local Government and the community should have a greater involvement in the oversight of important initiatives across the Northern Territory.

Legislation will be enacted to establish the Council of Territory Co-operation. The Council shall be made up of up to six Members of the Legislative Assembly: 2 ALP, 2 CLP and at least 1 Independent.

The Council shall facilitate:

- greater levels of collaboration in the governance of the Northern Territory;
- enhance Parliamentary democracy by providing a stronger role for MLAs who are not members of the Executive – particularly on matters of common concern;
- expand involvement in important Northern Territory initiatives and projects;
- provide new avenues for Territorians to have input through the Legislative Assembly into the governance of the Northern Territory; and
- provide a roadmap for tackling some specific issues currently facing the Northern Territory.

The Council shall be empowered to conduct inquiries and make recommendations on matters of public importance which are referred to it by the Legislative Assembly or self referred.

Current matters of public importance which the Government agrees to support being referred to the Council include: Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP); Local Government Reform; the Planning Scheme and the establishment of Weddell; and A Working Future (including Homelands Policy).

The Council shall determine the appropriate timeframes and workplan for the matters referred to it. Where the Council has multiple references to it, the Council shall determine which matter it enquires into first.

Appendix A to Parliamentary Agreement between Chief Minister Paul Henderson and Mr Gerry Wood, Independent Member for Nelson

The Council shall be empowered to conduct enquiries which shall include the capacity to conduct public hearings, consult with stakeholders such as Local Government and call expert evidence.

Reports and recommendations of the Council shall be tabled in the Legislative Assembly and made publicly available.

PARLIAMENTARY AND OTHER REFORMS:

1. Reform Question Time to allow more non-government questions
2. Dispense with Ministerial Reports.
3. Other Parliamentary reforms to be discussed.
4. Allow Government reports available under FOI to be free of charge to MLAs.

PROCESS	TIMELINE	CONSULTATION	FINAL DECISION
Government to produce a public discussion paper with a report to be presented to Parliament with any necessary legislation to implement the reforms	Report to Parliament Nov 09	Public and MLAs (Independent Opposition and Government)	Parliament

BUDGET CONSULTATIONS

Prior to the framing of the Territory Budget Mr Wood shall receive a briefing from NT Treasury regarding Budget parameters.

Prior to the finalisation of the Budget, Mr Wood and the Budget Cabinet Sub-Committee shall meet to enable Mr Wood to advocate Budget proposals.

PRISON LOCATION

1. Establish Expert Review Panel to review location
2. Examine alternative options to one large prison.
3. Investigate prison farms for Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine and Darwin.

PROCESS	TIMELINE	CONSULTATION	FINAL DECISION
Review of location and alternative options by an expert panel reporting to Sub Committee that reports directly to Cabinet	End Nov 09 – report to Sub Committee	Sub Committee consisting of Mr Wood, Minister for Corrections and Treasurer	Cabinet
Prepare discussion paper on prison farms	Discussion Paper – Jan 10		

CARAVAN LEGISLATION

1. Protect permanent tenants.

PROCESS	TIMELINE	CONSULTATION	FINAL DECISION
Cabinet Submission to approve legislative changes	Introduce legislation in October 09 sittings	Mr Wood's comments on legislation to be provided to Cabinet	Parliament

PROPERTY LAW REFORM

1. Vendor disclosure.

PROCESS	TIMELINE	CONSULTATION	FINAL DECISION
Cabinet Submission	Introduce legislation in October 09 starting	Mr Wood's comments on legislation to be provided to Cabinet	Parliament

LANDS AND PLANNING ISSUES

1. Address pricing and availability of land especially for first home owners.
2. Subdivision of Forestry Land in rural area.

Where possible expedite Native Title issues and housing proposals for Howard Springs Forestry Land to overcome residential land shortage.

3. Industrial Land.
Review Glyde Point as a potential site and detail other options.
4. Review and update the Humpty Doo District Plan with a view to encouraging housing opportunities.
5. Investigate development of Girraween District Centre.
6. Establishment of the City of Weddell.

Competition to be announced by November 09 asking for architects and town planners to design a visionary plan, including sustainability principles, for the new city of Weddell.

- 7. Future Development of Middle Arm.
 - Future approvals to be dealt with by the existing Litchfield Development Consent Authority.
- 8. Town Planner
 - Appoint a qualified and experienced town planner to provide direct advice to the Minister.
- 9. Darwin Regional Land Use Structure Plan
 - Review and update the Darwin Regional Land Use Structure Plan following public consultation.
- 10. Address issues with traffic from Robertson Barracks to Northern Suburbs via Knuckey Lagoon (Campbell Road Realignment).

PROCESS	TIMELINE	CONSULTATION	DECISION
1. Cabinet Submission on land price and availability	March 2010	Mr Wood to be consulted in preparation of Cabinet Submission	Cabinet
2. Prepare Cabinet Submission dealing with Native Title and other issues dealing with the Forestry area	November 2010	Mr Wood, Native Title claimants and Representative Bodies to be consulted	Cabinet
3. Cabinet Submission on Industrial Land including Glyde Pt to be prepared	March 2010	Mr Wood to be consulted in preparation of Cabinet Submission	Cabinet
4. Review Humpty Doo District Plan	April 2010	Minister, Mr Wood, Litchfield Shire Council and local community to be consulted	Cabinet
5. Investigate development of Giraween District Centre	June 2010	Minister, Mr Wood, Litchfield Shire Council and local community to be consulted	Cabinet
6. Refer to Council for investigation and report to Parliament	Determined by Council		
7. Policy decision	November 2009	Minister to consult Mr Wood	

8. Appoint Town Planner	December 2009		
9. Review and update Darwin Regional Land Use Structure Plan	Recommendations by August 2010	Broad community	Cabinet
10. Traffic study	June 2010	Local community	

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY (EPA)

The Environmental Protection Authority to receive the following additional powers and functions:

- Auditing and reporting on compliance with environmental approvals and licences;
- Investigating and responding to pollution complaints;
- Monitoring and reporting on water and air quality across the Territory;
- Producing regular "report cards" on the health of our environment; and
- By amending the referrals criteria empower the EPA to comment on Environmental Impact Statements for future major developments

PROCESS	TIMELINE	CONSULTATION	FINAL DECISION
Ministerial Statement and legislation	Introduce legislation in Nov 09 Sittings	All MEAs	

PUBLIC HOUSING

1. Public housing waiting lists

The Government will set goals to reduce waiting lists for public housing by type, by region each year. Work towards these reductions over the next 5 years.

Appendix A to Parliamentary Agreement between Chief Minister Paul Henderson and Mr Gerry Wood, Independent Member for Nelson

PROCESS	TIMELINE	CONSULTATION	FINAL DECISION
Report goals and achievements to Parliament	Oct 2009 and annually	Parliament	

NATURAL RESOURCES & THE ENVIRONMENT

1. National radioactive waste repository

The Northern Territory Government will continue to call on the Australian Government to repeal the *Radioactive Waste Management Act 2005* (Cwth) and for site selection for the national repository to be based on scientific evidence and allow for appropriate consultation and approvals.

2. Container Deposit Legislation

Continued commitment to the implementation of the Container Deposit Scheme.

3. Heritage Parks

Establishment of Heritage Parks especially WWII Heritage

PROCESS	TIMELINE	CONSULTATION	FINAL DECISION
1 & 2 - Continuation of current efforts			
3 - Develop policy position	December 09	Minister and Mr Wood	Cabinet

STRATEGIC INDIGENOUS HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

1. Refer Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP) to the Council of Territory Cooperation for enquiry and report back to Parliament.

YOUTH

1. Youth Clubs

Development of Youth Clubs based on the old Police Boys Clubs model in urban areas at Casuarina, Palmerston, Katherine and Alice Springs, to be managed by Police or non-government organisations.

PROCESS	TIMELINE	CONSULTATION	FINAL DECISION
Identify potential partners and locations and develop policy framework	Plan by December 09 Implementation ongoing	Minister to consult with Mr Wood through the process and receive comment on final proposal	Minister and Cabinet

RURAL AREA ISSUES

1. Investigate:

- sewer system to Howard Springs commercial area to allow for existing demands and future growth.
- sewerage infrastructure for Coolalinga.
- replacement of private water mains with Power Water Corporation mains where appropriate

2. Fred's Pass Reserve

Support Fred's Pass Reserve by funding greater capital and operational funds on an annual basis

3. Development of aquatic centre for the rural area.

4. Work on improving relations between NT Government and Litchfield Council.

5. Commence construction of bicycle paths into the rural area in conjunction with preserving the old railway corridor.

Appendix A to Parliamentary Agreement between Chief Minister Paul Henderson and Mr Gerry Wood, Independent Member for Nelson

6. Regional Waste Facility

Review and expedite the development of a regional waste facility in the rural area

PROCESS	TIMELINE	CONSULTATION	FINAL DECISION
1. Technical report	Report by March 10	Minister with Mr Wood on final report	PWC / Minister
2. Discussion with Mr Wood, Fred's Pass Reserve Trustees and representatives of users, followed by a report and public discussion paper	Report by Nov 09	As outlined	Cabinet
3. Review of current plans for aquatic centre in the rural area in conjunction with stakeholders and Mr Wood	Report with costings - Feb 2010	As per process	Cabinet
4. Discussion between Litchfield Shire, NT Government and Mr Wood	Ongoing		
5. Technical and heritage report followed by public consultation	Report by March 2010	Mr Wood and Minister to monitor process	Budget Cabinet 2010
6. Review work to date and present to Cabinet for decision	Dec 2010	Minister to discuss options with Mr Wood prior to developing Cabinet Decision	Cabinet

Appendix A to Parliamentary Agreement between Chief Minister Paul Henderson and Mr Gerry Wood, Independent Member for Nelson

SPECIAL EDUCATION

1. Investigate and report on delivery.
2. Investigate and provide plan for infrastructure upgrades.

PROCESS	TIMELINE	CONSULTATION	FINAL DECISION
Reports by Department of Education and Training	Feb 2010	Community	Cabinet

AGRICULTURE

1. New emphasis placed in Primary Industry in the NT as a key industry and driver of regional economic development and employment.
2. Ord River

NT Government will have an ongoing relationship with the WA Government and Kimberley Development Commission into matters concerning the development of Ord River Irrigation Project, especially those areas in the NT.

The relationship will be managed by a senior officer of the Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources.

3. Beef Roads

Further upgrades of beef, commercial and community roads such as those in the Douglas Daly Region.

4. Land Clearing / Native Vegetation

Introduce Native Vegetation Act to provide clearer guidelines for vegetation preservation land clearing

PROCESS	TIMELINE	CONSULTATION	FINAL DECISION
1&2 Ministerial Statement	Feb 2010	Parliamentary Debate	
2 To provide 10 year plan for development of rural roads	Dec-09	Minister to consult with Mr Wood on the draft plan	Cabinet
3 Exposure draft of legislation	Feb 2010	Community Stakeholders	

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

1. Local Government Reform

Refer to the Council of Territory Cooperation for enquiry and report to Parliament.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Promote bi-partisanship in the Territory - hold quarterly meetings with Chief Minister, Leader of the Opposition and Mr Wood.