



Parliament House  
State Square  
Darwin NT 0800  
chief.minister@nt.gov.au

GPO Box 3146  
Darwin NT 0801  
Telephone: 08 8999 8700

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP  
Prime Minister of Australia  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

I am writing to provide an update on the upcoming appointment of the Administrator of the Northern Territory (the Administrator). His Honour Professor the Honourable Hugh Heggie AO PSM was appointed into the Office of the Administrator on 31 January 2023 for a term of three years, expiring 30 January 2026.

The Administrator is appointed under section 32 of the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978* by the Governor-General, for a period at his discretion.

My Government wishes to nominate Mr David Connolly for appointment as the next Administrator for the Northern Territory for a period of three years. Mr Connolly is regarded as one of the Northern Territory's leading pastoralists and agricultural innovators. Since 2015, he has served as General Manager of the Tipperary Group of Stations, where he has played a key role in advancing the region's pastoral industry. His commitment to driving economic growth in the Northern Territory was further demonstrated through his tenure as Director of the Northern Cotton / Western Australia–Northern Territory Cotton Gin from 2022 to 2024, which successfully launched in 2023.

Mr Connolly will be the 24th Administrator for the Northern Territory if appointed and Mr Connolly's CV is attached.

If this proposal is in accordance with your Government's wishes, I would be grateful if you could take the necessary steps to appoint Mr Connolly as the new Administrator, commencing 31 January 2026.

Yours sincerely  
s22(1)(a)(ii)

LIA FINOCCHIARO

12 JUN 2025



**CURRICULUM VITAE**

Name: David **s47F** Connolly

Former name (s): N/A

Residential address:

**s47F**

Date of birth:

Present position: General Manager, Tipperary Group of Stations

Educational and professional qualifications:

2005 – 2007 Graduate Diploma Agribusiness University of Queensland, Gatton Campus

1984 – 1986 Associate Diploma Stock and Meat Inspection, University of Queensland, Gatton Campus

1981 – 1983 Senior School Certificate – The Southport School

Relevant experience:

2015-Current: General Manager, Tipperary Group of Stations

2011-2015: Head of Livestock Investments, Insight Global Farmland Fund (IGFF), Australian General Manager, Thames Pastoral Company.

2009 - 2010: Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Farmworks Pty Ltd

2003-2009: Chief Operating Officer, Australian Agricultural Company (AAco)

1987-2003: Regional Livestock and Stud Stock Manager, Dalgety / Wesfarmers Landmark

Current board memberships:

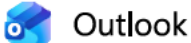
2023 – 2025 Director, National Farmers Federation (NFF)

Former board memberships:

2021 – 2024: President, Northern Territory Cattleman's Association (NTCA)

2022 – 2024: Director Northern Cotton / WANT Cotton

2011 – 2015 Non Executive Director, Insight Global Farmland Fund (IGFF)



**CONFIDENTIAL: Letter from the Chief Minister to the Prime Minister regarding Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]**

**From** s22(1)(a)(ii) @nt.gov.au>  
**Date** Fri 13/06/2025 11:11  
**To** s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Cc** s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii) @nt.gov.au>

📎 1 attachment (114 KB)

Letter to the Prime Minister - Administrator of the NT.pdf;

Good morning s22(1)(a)(ii)

Please note that the attached letter was emailed to the Office of the Prime Minister late yesterday.

Kind regards

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Director  
 Cabinet Office and Secretariat Services  
 Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Secretary to the Executive Council  
 Secretary to the NT Remuneration Tribunal

Level 14, NT House, 22 Mitchell Street, Darwin  
 GPO Box 4396, Darwin NT 0801

t. s22(1)(a)(ii)  
 m. s22(1)(a)(ii)  
 w. [cmc.nt.gov.au](http://cmc.nt.gov.au)



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**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 10 June 2025 5:32 PM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii)@nt.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL: Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

**OFFICIAL**

Hi s22(1)(a)

Thank you so much for sending this through. We will await the official correspondence before actioning further.

Kind regards,

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director • Mainland Territories Policy • Territories Division

s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au

P +61 2 s22(1)(a)

GPO Box 594 Canberra, ACT 2601

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts**

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**OFFICIAL**

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii)@nt.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 10 June 2025 12:55 PM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii)@nt.gov.au>  
**Subject:** CONFIDENTIAL: Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory  
**Importance:** High  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Good afternoon

I am pleased to advise, in confidence, that the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, the Hon Lia Finocchiaro MLA will write to the Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP to nominate Mr David Robert Connolly as the Northern Territory's 24<sup>th</sup> Administrator of the Northern Territory.

As previously requested, I attach Mr Connolly's CV and Private Interests Declaration form. I am yet to receive advice on the term of appointment that the Northern Territory will request be considered by the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC.

Please ensure that this advice is handled with strict confidentiality noting the sensitivities that occur during this time until the announcement of the Administrator-designate.

Kind regards

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Director  
Cabinet Office and Secretariat Services  
Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Secretary to the Executive Council  
Secretary to the NT Remuneration Tribunal

Level 14, NT House, 22 Mitchell Street, Darwin  
GPO Box 4396, Darwin NT 0801

t. s22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 22 May 2025 1:45 PM

**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@nt.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@nt.gov.au)>

**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: Timeline for the NT Administrator Appointment [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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## OFFICIAL

Hi s22(1)(a)(ii)

Thank you for the update. I hope you have a great afternoon.

Kind regards,

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director • Mainland Territories Policy • Territories Division

s22(1)(a)(ii) [@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au)

P +61 2 s22(1)(a)

GPO Box 594 Canberra, ACT 2601

Please note: I currently work part time Mon -Thurs

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**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) [@nt.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@nt.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, 21 May 2025 12:26 PM

**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) [@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au)>

**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) [@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au)>; s22(1)(a)(ii) [@nt.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@nt.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: Timeline for the NT Administrator Appointment [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22(1)(a)(ii)

I am still yet to receive a nomination from the NT Government.

Perhaps look at a timeline of receiving advice up to mid-June.

Please accept my apologies.

Kind regards

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Director  
 Cabinet Office and Secretariat Services  
 Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Secretary to the Executive Council  
Secretary to the NT Remuneration Tribunal

Level 14, NT House, 22 Mitchell Street, Darwin  
GPO Box 4396, Darwin NT 0801

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**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 20 May 2025 4:27 PM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@nt.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Timeline for the NT Administrator Appointment [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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**OFFICIAL**

Good Afternoon s22(1)(a) [REDACTED]

I hope this email finds you well.

I'm just touching base to let you know that our Minister is all back on board and has asked for us to complete an updated timeline for the NT Administrator Appointment. We would be grateful on any advice you might have of when a potential candidate would be nominated.

Thank you so much s22(1)(a) [REDACTED] and looking forward to your advice.

Kind regards,

s22(1)(a)(ii) [REDACTED]

Assistant Director • Mainland Territories Policy • Territories Division

s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au>

P +61 2 s22(1)(a) [REDACTED]

GPO Box 594 Canberra, ACT 2601

Please note: I currently work part time Mon -Thurs

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**OFFICIAL**

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## FOI

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Fw: UPDATED:: NT Administrator Timeline [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** 20250520 - Appintment Timeline - NT Administrator.docx

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

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**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) @nt.gov.au  
**Sent:** Thursday, 10 July 2025 11:05  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au; RUSH, Rebecca  
 <Rebecca.RUSH@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) @nt.gov.au; s22(1)(a)(ii) @nt.gov.au  
**Subject:** UPDATED:: NT Administrator Timeline [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hi Bec

Thank you for this timeline.

I have made one amendment to point 12, as the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory hosts the swearing-in ceremony which is coordinated by Government House and Protocol NT.

In consultation with the Administrator of the Northern Territory's Official Secretary, I can advise that what is included in the timeline that was attached is appropriate for the external Territories and is not the convention for the Administrator of the Northern Territory.

Kind regards  
 s22(1)  
 ( ) (ii)  
 s22(1)(a)(ii)  
 Executive Director  
 Cabinet Office and Secretariat Services  
 Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Secretary to the Executive Council  
 Secretary to the NT Remuneration Tribunal

Level 14, NT House, 22 Mitchell Street, Darwin  
 GPO Box 4396, Darwin NT 0801

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**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) [redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 June 2025 4:05 PM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) [redacted]@nt.gov.au; s22(1)(a)(ii) [redacted]@nt.gov.au  
**Cc:** RUSH, Rebecca <Rebecca.RUSH@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Subject:** NT Administrator Timeline [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

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OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Hi s22(1) [redacted] and s22(1)(a) [redacted]

Thank you for your time this afternoon.

As promised, please find attached the proposed timeline for appointment. At this stage we are on target and will keep you updated as we move through the appointment steps.

The terms of reference for the Review of Public Sector Board Appointments Processes can be found [here](#). Unfortunately it looks like the draft report has not been published, however the terms of reference give you a flavour of what we are being asked to include in our analysis back to the Minister (for this and other roles we are responsible for).

Please reach out if you have any questions.

Have a great weekend.

Kind Regards,

s2  
2(1)

s22(1)(a)(ii) [redacted]

Director • Mainland Territories Policy • Territories Division

s22(1)(a)(ii) [redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au

P +61 2 s22(1)(a) [redacted] • M +61 s22(1)(a)(ii) [redacted]

GPO Box 594 Canberra, ACT 2601

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**Appointment Process for new Northern Territory Administrator**

	DESCRIPTION OF TASK	RESPONSIBLE TEAM
1.	NT Chief Minister writes to Prime Minister and proposes nominee/s	NT Chief Minister
2.	Ministerial submission, including due diligence analysis, prepared to seek agreement for <sup>s47C</sup> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; width: 300px; height: 15px; margin: 5px 0;"></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <sup>s47C</sup>  <div style="background-color: #cccccc; width: 150px; height: 15px; margin: 2px 0;"></div></li> <li>• Completed and signed Private Interests Declaration form</li> <li>• CV</li> </ul>	Territories
3.	Ministerial consideration and agreement	Minister's Office
4.	<sup>s47C</sup> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; width: 300px; height: 20px; margin: 5px 0;"></div>	Prime Minister's Office
5.	The department prepares the Federal Executive Council (ExCo) documents. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explanatory Memorandum (EM)</li> <li>• Instrument of Appointment</li> <li>• Formal Minute</li> </ul>	Territories
6.	ExCo Secretariat clearance of the draft papers.	PM&C
7.	Ministerial consideration and approval of ExCo Papers	Minister's Office
8.	Submission of papers and Executive Council approval – 16 October ExCo	PM&C



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9.	<p>Further Ministerial Submission to the Minister to provide for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nominee negotiates terms and conditions with department (department liaises with the Remuneration Tribunal, who must approve them)</li> <li>• Minister sends letter of congratulations to nominee and provides instructions on terms of appointment (Charter letter)</li> <li>• Minister writes a letter of thanks to predecessor</li> </ul>	Territories	s47C
10.	Ministerial consideration and approval of final submission	Minister's Office	
11.	Send package to nominee	Territories	
12.	Coordinate swearing in ceremony and press release (hosted by the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory)	Government House / Protocol NT	

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## FOI

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) @nt.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 August 2025 1:42 PM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii); s22(1)(a)(ii); s22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL: Updated PID for the Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** Appointments - Private Interests Declaration and Attachment (PID) (May 2025).pdf  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

CONFIDENTIAL

Good afternoon s22(1)(a)

Please find the updated Private Interests Declaration from Mr Connolly as request.

Kind regards

s22(1)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Director  
 Cabinet Office and Secretariat Services  
 Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Secretary to the Executive Council  
 Secretary to the NT Remuneration Tribunal

Level 14, NT House, 22 Mitchell Street, Darwin  
 GPO Box 4396, Darwin NT 0801

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**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) @nt.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 August 2025 10:16 AM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @nt.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL: Updated PID for the Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

Thank you s22(1)(a)

I will ensure the changes are made as requested.

Kind regards

s22(1)

( ) (ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Director

Cabinet Office and Secretariat Services

Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Secretary to the Executive Council

Secretary to the NT Remuneration Tribunal

Level 14, NT House, 22 Mitchell Street, Darwin

GPO Box 4396, Darwin NT 0801

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**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>

**Sent:** Monday, 11 August 2025 3:24 PM

**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@nt.gov.au>

**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>

**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL: Updated PID for the Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**Sensitivity:** Confidential

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OFFICIAL

Good Afternoon s22(1)(a)(ii)

Thank you for sending this through, unfortunately I predict that PM&C will ask for a couple of changes:

- The second page of the PID needs to have the red font removed and the *proposed position and organisation* added eg. 'Administrator of the Northern Territory'.
- Q9 - Can Mr Connolly be more specific in on the date in October 2025 his position as Director of the National Farmers Federation terminates and what is involved in the process of this termination. The wording in the conflict mitigation strategy should also not assume that he will be sworn in as Administrator so this will need to be taken out.
- s47F



Thank you so much <sup>s22(1)(a)</sup><sub>(ii)</sub> and apologies for the back and forth, we try to get this right before it goes to PM&C.

Kind regards,

<sup>s22(1)(a)</sup><sub>(ii)</sub>

Assistant Director • Mainland Territories Policy • Territories Division

<sup>s22(1)(a)</sup><sub>(ii)</sub> [@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto: @infrastructure.gov.au)

P +61 2 <sup>s22(1)(a)</sup><sub>(iii)</sub>

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**From:** <sup>s22(1)(a)</sup><sub>(ii)</sub> [@nt.gov.au](mailto: @nt.gov.au)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 7 August 2025 3:31 PM  
**To:** <sup>s22(1)(a)</sup><sub>(ii)</sub> [@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto: @infrastructure.gov.au)  
**Cc:** <sup>s22(1)(a)</sup><sub>(ii)</sub> [@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto: @infrastructure.gov.au); <sup>s22(1)(a)</sup><sub>(ii)</sub> [@nt.gov.au](mailto: @nt.gov.au)

**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL: Updated PID for the Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**Sensitivity:** Confidential

Good afternoon <sup>s22(1)</sup><sub>(a)(ii)</sub>

Please find attached the PID and Attachment as requested from Mr Connolly.

Kind regards

Released under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

s22(1)(a)  
/ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Director  
Cabinet Office and Secretariat Services  
Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Secretary to the Executive Council  
Secretary to the NT Remuneration Tribunal

Level 14, NT House, 22 Mitchell Street, Darwin  
GPO Box 4396, Darwin NT 0801

t. s22(1)(a)(ii)

m

w. [cmc.nt.gov.au](http://cmc.nt.gov.au)



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**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@nt.gov.au>

**Sent:** Thursday, 7 August 2025 2:27 PM

**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>

**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@nt.gov.au>

**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL: Updated PID for the Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**Sensitivity:** Confidential

OK – thanks

We have requested the response on urgency 😊

Kind regards

s22(1)(a)  
/ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Director  
Cabinet Office and Secretariat Services  
Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Secretary to the Executive Council  
Secretary to the NT Remuneration Tribunal

Level 14, NT House, 22 Mitchell Street, Darwin  
GPO Box 4396, Darwin NT 0801

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**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 7 August 2025 2:25 PM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@nt.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL: Updated PID for the Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

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OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Hi s22(1)(a)(ii)

This should not hold up the process but if we can have the updated PID form back by Monday 11 August 2025, that would be great.

Thank you so much.

Kind regards,

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director • Mainland Territories Policy • Territories Division

s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>

P +61 2 s22(1)(a)

GPO Box 594 Canberra, ACT 2601

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts  
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*I acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we meet, work and live.  
 I recognise and respect their continuing connection to the land, waters and communities.  
 I pay my respects to Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.*

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@nt.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 7 August 2025 11:29 AM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@nt.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL: Updated PID for the Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

Good morning s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]>

We will ensure that Mr Connolly completes this form as per your instructions.

Can you please advise if the provision of this updated form will stall the appointment process?

Kind regards

s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]>

s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]>

Executive Director  
 Cabinet Office and Secretariat Services  
 Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Secretary to the Executive Council  
 Secretary to the NT Remuneration Tribunal

Level 14, NT House, 22 Mitchell Street, Darwin  
 GPO Box 4396, Darwin NT 0801

t. s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]>

m. [REDACTED]

w. [cmc.nt.gov.au](mailto:cmc.nt.gov.au)



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**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 7 August 2025 9:59 AM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@nt.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Subject:** CONFIDENTIAL: Updated PID for the Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

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OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Good Morning s22(1)(a)(ii)

I hope this email finds you well.

We have been advised by PM&C that there in a new Private Interests Declaration (PID) form that now needs to be used – attached. Are you able to please get Mr Connolly to complete this new PID form. Some helpful advice that we have received from PM&C is for the form to be completed in black font and to also include a conflict mitigation strategy in the Attachment.

Thank you so much s22(1)(a)(ii) and please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director • Mainland Territories Policy • Territories Division

s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au

P +61 2 s22(1)(a)(ii)

GPO Box 594 Canberra, ACT 2601

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*I acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we meet, work and live.  
I recognise and respect their continuing connection to the land, waters and communities.  
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## PRIVATE INTERESTS DECLARATION

<b>PROPOSED POSITION &amp; ORGANISATION</b>	The Administrator of the Northern Territory
---------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------

Please answer the following questions by circling the reply that applies to your personal circumstances. **If you answer “yes” to any question, please provide details in the provided attachment to this form, signed and dated.** Please note that answering “yes” to any question does not necessarily preclude you from being appointed. Your response will be treated as confidential and will only be used for purposes connected with this proposed appointment.

1. Do you have any disclosable criminal convictions, i.e. convictions as an adult that form part of your criminal history other than those protected by the Spent Convictions Scheme (see Part VIIC of the <i>Crimes Act 1914</i> )?	s47F
2. Are you, or have you been, the respondent or defendant in any civil or criminal court action (including as a company director or other office holder)?	
3. (a) Have you ever been declared bankrupt, entered into a debt agreement under Part IX of the Bankruptcy Act 1996 (the Bankruptcy Act) or entered into a personal insolvency agreement under Part X of the Bankruptcy Act? (b) If you are in a partnership, have any of your partners ever been declared bankrupt, entered into a debt agreement under Part IX of the Bankruptcy Act or entered into a personal insolvency agreement under Part X of the Bankruptcy Act?	
4. Has any business or commercial enterprise for which you, or if applicable your partner(s), have had responsibility ever gone into receivership or a similar scheme or arrangement?	
5. During the last 10 years have you, or if applicable your partner(s), been the subject of a court order in connection with monies owing to another party?	
6. Have you ever been summonsed or charged concerning non-payment of tax or outstanding tax debts, investigated for tax evasion or defaults, or negotiated with the Australian Taxation Office over outstanding tax debts?	
7. Have you ever been the subject of a complaint to a professional body which has been substantiated, or is currently under investigation? Have you been subject to a formal conduct investigation? (if yes, please provide details).	
8. Have you ever been dismissed from employment because of a discipline or misconduct issue?	
9. Are you the director of a company, sit on a board of any organisation, or hold any other professional roles or other Commonwealth roles (including advisory roles)? <u>If yes, please provide details on the following page(s) on how this conflict of interest would be managed (please include all bodies, including not-for-profit).</u>	Yes / X
10. Do you or your immediate family have any financial interest in any company or business, or are you or your immediate family employed or engaged by any company or business, which might have dealings with, or an interest in the decisions of, the office to which you may be appointed? If yes, include advice in the attachment on how this conflict of interest would be managed.	s47F
11. Are you a lobbyist registered on the Australian Government’s Lobbyists Register or the register of a state or territory? If yes, please provide details in the attachment.	
12. Are you currently employed by the Commonwealth, the Administration of a Territory, or a public statutory corporation or incorporated company owned by the Commonwealth on a full-time/part-time basis? If yes, please provide details.	
13. Is there any other information which could be relevant to your suitability for the appointment, or other information that should be disclosed to the Government prior to appointment (if yes, please provide details).	

### ASSURANCE

<p><b>I advise that to the best of my knowledge my private, business and financial interests, including taxation affairs, would not conflict with my public duties or otherwise cause embarrassment to myself or to the Government during my term of appointment. I also undertake to advise the responsible minister and recuse myself from any relevant matters should a situation arise in the future which might cause a conflict of interest with my responsibilities under, or otherwise impact on, this appointment.</b></p>		
DAVID <span style="background-color: grey; color: white;">s47F</span> CONNOLLY		7.8.2025
Name	Signature	Date

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## PRIVATE INTERESTS DECLARATION - ATTACHMENT

<b>PROPOSED POSITION &amp; ORGANISATION</b>	The Administrator of the Northern Territory
---------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------

Please provide details for all 'yes' answers to any question on the Private Interests Declaration form. Please detail how any conflict(s), actual or perceived, will be managed if appointed. Please note that responses to Q12 may be relevant to remuneration payable for part-time appointments with reference to section 7(11) of the *Remuneration Act 1973*. The Act provides that a person is not entitled to remuneration for part-time appointments when holding certain full-time employment, engagement or appointment. Your responses will be treated as confidential and will only be used for purposes connected with the proposed appointment.

**Please provide conflict mitigation strategy(ies) for all current directorships, board and professional roles, as well as any matters noted under Question 13 on the previous page.**

QUESTION	DETAILS <u>WITH</u> CONFLICT MITIGATION STRATEGY
9	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>I am currently a Director of the National Farmers Federation which will terminate at the NFF AGM on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025 as my term will end and I will not be re-standing for election as Director. The Directorship will not renew.</b></p> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 150px; width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <span style="font-size: small; color: #000080; position: absolute; top: 5px; left: 5px;">s47F</span> </div>

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**ASSURANCE**

I declare that to the best of my knowledge, the information provided above is true and correct.

DAVID s47F CONNOLLY

.....  
Name

s47F

.....  
Signature

7.8.2025

.....  
Date

~~PROTECTED: PERSONAL PRIVACY~~

Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,  
Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

Covering Note

## Meeting with NT Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Contact: Rebecca Rush Assistant Secretary - Norfolk Island and Mainland Territories, +61 (0) ~~s22(1)(a)~~

### Issue Summary

- S32 (1) of the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978* (the Act) states that 'There shall be an Administrator of the Territory, who shall be appointed by the Governor General by Commission under the Seal of Australia and shall hold office during the pleasure of the Governor General.'
- Responsibility for nominations is not formalised within the Act or regulations and is a matter of convention.
- Since at least 2013, all previous candidates nominated by the Chief Minister of the NT have been appointed by the Governor General.
- On 12 June 2025, consistent with past practice, the Chief Minister of the NT, the Hon Lia Finocchiaro MLA, wrote to the Prime Minister nominating Mr David Connolly as the next Administrator for three years.
- The department undertook a suitability review that assessed the qualifications and experience of Mr Connolly relevant to the vacancy and any real or perceived conflict of interests with Mr Connolly.
- ~~s47B(a), s47B(b)~~

~~s47B(a), s47B(b)~~

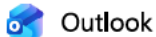
### Qualifications and experience

- The department noted that Mr Connolly is one of the Northern Territory's leading pastoralists and agricultural innovators and played a lead role in advancing the region's pastoral industry.
  - Mr Connolly brings extensive industry representation experience that will be of benefit for the ceremonial and representative functions of the Administrator role.
  - Mr Connolly holds tertiary qualifications in agribusiness and meat inspection. These qualifications are relevant to his sectoral expertise but may not necessarily reflect the formal training or experience in public administration and understanding of statutory roles, areas previously considered beneficial for vice-regal appointments for carrying out the role of the Administrator.
- The Administrator is a non-partisan role and as such is expected to avoid public comments that could reasonably be perceived as undermining their impartiality, neutrality and the Australian public's trust in the position.
  - Mr Connolly has previously made public and social media statements that criticised Australian Government policies related to agriculture and First Nations. These included statements that questioned the impartiality, neutrality, honesty, and integrity of the Australian Government, including Ministers.

### Impact on appointment timeline

- The appointment of a new Administrator for the NT may not be completed before the term of the current Administrator ends on 31 January 2026.
- If required, the first dormant commission holder, occupied by Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the NT, Mr Michael Grant QC, is available to undertake the role of Acting Administrator.

~~PROTECTED: PERSONAL PRIVACY~~



**RE: CONFIDENTIAL: Letter from the Chief Minister to the Prime Minister regarding Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]**

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii)@nt.gov.au  
**Date:** Mon 13/10/2025 10:07  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au; s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au; s22(1)(a)(ii)@nt.gov.au

Thank you s22(1)(a)(ii)

Greatly appreciated.

Kind regards  
 s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Director  
 Cabinet Office and Secretariat Services  
 Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Secretary to the Executive Council  
 Secretary to the NT Remuneration Tribunal

Level 14, NT House, 22 Mitchell Street, Darwin  
 GPO Box 4396, Darwin NT 0801

t. s22(1)(a)(ii)  
 m. s22(1)(a)(ii)  
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**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au  
**Sent:** Sunday, 12 October 2025 12:45 PM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii)@nt.gov.au  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au; s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au  
**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL: Letter from the Chief Minister to the Prime Minister regarding Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

**OFFICIAL**

**OFFICIAL**

Hi s22(1)(a)(ii)

I am responding on behalf of the department.

We are still waiting on a decision by Government and have no further information at this time.

We have advised Government that we would like a decision by the 25 November in order to meet Executive Council deadlines.

We will advise once we hear anything further.

Regards,  
s22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@nt.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Saturday, 11 October 2025 9:02 AM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@nt.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Fwd: CONFIDENTIAL: Letter from the Chief Minister to the Prime Minister regarding Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

OFFICIAL

Morning s22(1)(a)(ii)

Forwarding this query to you in s22(1)(a)(ii) absence.

Kind regards  
s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Director  
Cabinet Office and Secretariat Services  
Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Secretary to the Executive Council  
Secretary to the NT Remuneration Tribunal

Level 14, NT House, 22 Mitchell Street, Darwin  
GPO Box 4396, Darwin NT 0801

t. s22(1)(a)(ii)  
m. [redacted]  
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Begin forwarded message:

OFFICIAL

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@nt.gov.au>  
**Date:** 11 October 2025 at 7:28:07 am ACST  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>, Rebecca RUSH <[Rebecca.RUSH@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:Rebecca.RUSH@infrastructure.gov.au)>, s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@nt.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: CONFIDENTIAL: Letter from the Chief Minister to the Prime Minister regarding Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Morning s22(1)(a)

I have been asked to follow up on any progress regarding this matter following our CEO's meeting with Dr Steven Kennedy PSM.

I note that you have referred in your email below that the Northern Territory may need to consider acting arrangements, which can be arranged. However any further advice on the indicative timing of His Excellency's decision would be appreciated to ensure the required arrangements can be made for either the appointment of an Administrator of the Northern Territory or the availability of an Acting Administrator.

Kind regards  
s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Director  
Cabinet Office and Secretariat Services  
Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Secretary to the Executive Council  
Secretary to the NT Remuneration Tribunal

Level 14, NT House, 22 Mitchell Street, Darwin  
GPO Box 4396, Darwin NT 0801

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On 1 Oct 2025, at 7:42 am, s22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au)> wrote:

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OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Hi s22(1)(a)

Apologies for the delay in getting back to you. The decision is still with Government, so I have updated your below table in red text to reflect if the brief was to potentially be submitted into the last ExCo date for the year which is 11 December 2025. We have not been advised of the ExCo dates for next year, but we may need to consider acting arrangements should a decision not be made before the final ExCo.

Thanks s22(1)(a) and please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director • Mainland Territories Policy • Territories Division  
s22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au)>

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*I acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we meet, work and live.  
 I recognise and respect their continuing connection to the land, waters and communities.  
 I pay my respects to Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.*

**OFFICIAL**

**OFFICIAL**

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@nt.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 29 September 2025 12:07 PM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Cc:** RUSH, Rebecca <Rebecca.RUSH@infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@nt.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL: Letter from the Chief Minister to the Prime Minister regarding Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

Thank you s22(1)(a)(ii) do we need to revisit the timeline below?

DATE	ACTION
s47C	1. Federal government prepares brief for the Minister for Local Government and Territories.
	2. s47C
	3. Federal government prepares and provides Federal Executive Council submission for the Minister for Local Government and Territories to sign.
	4. Federal Government lodges Executive Council submission.
	5. Executive Council submission considered by Governor-General.
	6. On receipt of official advice from the Commonwealth, the Chief Minister can publicly announce the appointment (in liaison with the Federal Minister for Minister for Local Government and Territories, Administrator Designate, Government House and NT Cabinet Office).
<b>December 2025</b>	7. Government House to commence meetings with Administrator Designate for a series of briefings on the role, responsibilities, etc.
<del>Late December 2025</del> / <b>early January 2026</b>	8. Swearing-in of the new Administrator (Federal Government prepare the instrument that need to be signed at the swearing-in ceremony. Government House, Protocol NT and NT Cabinet Office make the necessary arrangements for the swearing-in ceremony)
<b>30 January 2026</b>	9. Departure from Government House of 23 <sup>rd</sup> Administrator.
<b>31 January 2026</b>	10. Administrator Designate commences duties.

Kind regards  
 s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Director  
 Cabinet Office and Secretariat Services  
 Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

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Secretary to the Executive Council  
Secretary to the NT Remuneration Tribunal

Level 14, NT House, 22 Mitchell Street, Darwin  
GPO Box 4396, Darwin NT 0801

t. s22(1)(a)(ii)  
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---

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 29 September 2025 10:59 AM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@nt.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@nt.gov.au)>; s22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** RUSH, Rebecca <[Rebecca.RUSH@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:Rebecca.RUSH@infrastructure.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL: Letter from the Chief Minister to the Prime Minister regarding Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

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**OFFICIAL**

**OFFICIAL**

Good Morning s22(1)(a)(ii)

Thank you for your email and the advice of your agency's CEO having a meeting with Dr Steven Kennedy PSM this Thursday. At this stage we don't have any further updates, the brief is with our Minister for consideration so it is still a decision for Government. We will advise you as soon as we received any updates/decisions.

Thanks s22(1)(a)(ii) and I hope you have a nice day.

Kind regards,

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director • Mainland Territories Policy • Territories Division

s22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au)>

P +61 2 s22(1)(a)(ii)

GPO Box 594 Canberra, ACT 2601

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts**  
**CONNECTING AUSTRALIANS • ENRICHING COMMUNITIES • EMPOWERING REGIONS**

[infrastructure.gov.au](http://infrastructure.gov.au)

*I acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we meet, work and live.  
I recognise and respect their continuing connection to the land, waters and communities.  
I pay my respects to Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.*

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**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@nt.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 29 September 2025 11:00 AM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au>; RUSH, Rebecca <Rebecca.RUSH@infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL: Letter from the Chief Minister to the Prime Minister regarding Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

Morning All

This agency's CEO has a meeting with Dr Steven Kennedy PSM this Thursday and our CEO has requested dot points regarding the appointment of the Administrator of the Northern Territory for this meeting.

As such, can you provide any further updates to what was provided below?

Kind regards  
 s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]>

Executive Director  
 Cabinet Office and Secretariat Services  
 Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Secretary to the Executive Council  
 Secretary to the NT Remuneration Tribunal

Level 14, NT House, 22 Mitchell Street, Darwin  
 GPO Box 4396, Darwin NT 0801

t. s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]>  
 m. [REDACTED]  
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**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 11 September 2025 12:04 PM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@nt.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au>; RUSH, Rebecca <Rebecca.RUSH@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL: Letter from the Chief Minister to the Prime Minister regarding Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
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Hi s22(1)(a)(ii)

Thanks for the table.

I have made some adjustments below based on where we are at. Please note that the department has no control over the process now that we have submitted the brief to the Minister. It is now a decision for Government and we are unable to influence that.

We will confirm Executive Council consideration date once we know more.

Kind Regards,  
s22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@nt.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 11 September 2025 12:05 PM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>; RUSH, Rebecca <Rebecca.RUSH@infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@nt.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL: Letter from the Chief Minister to the Prime Minister regarding Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

Morning

I am preparing an update for the Chief Minister on the remaining steps required to appoint the new Administrator of the Northern Territory and would appreciate your input on the table below:

DATE	ACTION
s47C	11. Federal government prepares brief for the Minister for Local Government and Territories.
	12. s47C
	13. Federal government prepares and provides Federal Executive Council submission for the Minister for Local Government and Territories to sign.
	14. Federal Government lodges Executive Council submission.
	15. Executive Council submission considered by Governor-General.
	16. On receipt of official advice from the Commonwealth, the Chief Minister can publicly announce the appointment (in liaison with the Federal Minister for Minister for Local Government and Territories, Administrator Designate, Government House and NT Cabinet Office).
<del>Late November</del> /early December 2025	17. Government House to commence meetings with Administrator Designate for a series of briefings on the role, responsibilities, etc.
Late December 2025 / early January 2026	18. Swearing-in of the new Administrator (Federal Government prepare the instrument that need to be signed at the swearing-in ceremony. Government House, Protocol NT and NT Cabinet Office make the necessary arrangements for the swearing-in ceremony)
30 January 2026	19. Departure from Government House of 23 <sup>rd</sup> Administrator.
31 January 2026	20. Administrator Designate commences duties.

Kind regards  
s22(1)(a)(ii)

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s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Director  
Cabinet Office and Secretariat Services  
Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

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---

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) [@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 3 September 2025 11:20 AM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) [@nt.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@nt.gov.au)  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) [@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au); RUSH, Rebecca  
<[Rebecca.RUSH@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:Rebecca.RUSH@infrastructure.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL: Letter from the Chief Minister to the Prime Minister regarding Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**Sensitivity:** Confidential

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Hi s22(1)(a)(ii)

Our current understanding is based on the previous process.

We will be responsible for the drafting of the instruments that need to be signed at the swearing in ceremony. These will need to be cleared by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and we will coordinate this.

Please advise if you require further support from us.

Kind Regards,  
s22(1)(a)

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---

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) [@nt.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@nt.gov.au)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 3 September 2025 10:34 AM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) [@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au); RUSH, Rebecca

<[Rebecca.RUSH@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:Rebecca.RUSH@infrastructure.gov.au)>

Cc: s22(1)(a)(ii) [redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au; s22(1)(a)(ii) [redacted]  
s22(1)(a)(ii) [redacted]@nt.gov.au>

**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL: Letter from the Chief Minister to the Prime Minister regarding Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**Sensitivity:** Confidential

Thank you and greatly appreciated.

Do you have any oversight of the swearing-in of the new Administrator?

I am aware of the arrangements based on what occurred for the last appointment, however wanted to see if your office needed to be involved in any way.

Kind regards

s22(1)(a)(ii) [redacted]

Executive Director  
Cabinet Office and Secretariat Services  
Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Secretary to the Executive Council  
Secretary to the NT Remuneration Tribunal

Level 14, NT House, 22 Mitchell Street, Darwin  
GPO Box 4396, Darwin NT 0801

t. s22(1)(a)(ii) [redacted]

m. [redacted]

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---

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) [redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 September 2025 4:17 PM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) [redacted]@nt.gov.au; RUSH, Rebecca <[Rebecca.RUSH@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:Rebecca.RUSH@infrastructure.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) [redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL: Letter from the Chief Minister to the Prime Minister regarding Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

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**OFFICIAL**

Hi s22(1)(a)(ii) [redacted]

Apologies for the silence.

The formal brief is with the Government for decision. At this stage we do not anticipate a decision being made before the end of September.

We will let you know as soon as we have an update on timing (or the decision).

Kind Regards,  
s22(1)(a)(ii)

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---

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@nt.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 September 2025 3:19 PM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>; RUSH, Rebecca <Rebecca.RUSH@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@nt.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL: Letter from the Chief Minister to the Prime Minister regarding Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon

Me again 😊

Just checking in on the status of progress of the consideration of the proposed Administrator of the Northern Territory.

Kind regards  
s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Director  
Cabinet Office and Secretariat Services  
Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Secretary to the Executive Council  
Secretary to the NT Remuneration Tribunal

Level 14, NT House, 22 Mitchell Street, Darwin  
GPO Box 4396, Darwin NT 0801

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m. [redacted]  
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**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 31 July 2025 9:28 AM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@nt.gov.au>; RUSH, Rebecca <Rebecca.RUSH@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL: Letter from the Chief Minister to the Prime Minister regarding Northern Territory's

proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**Sensitivity:** Confidential

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Hi s22(1)(a)(ii)

Thanks for the update.

We have a copy of the letter, we are just waiting on formal allocation by the Minister's office. We should have it today and will finalise our work in the next week. Based on our timeline it means we will be three weeks behind but can hopefully make up that time moving forward as we have been generous at other points.

Kind Regards,  
s22(1)  
(a)(ii)

**OFFICIAL**

---

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) @nt.gov.au  
**Sent:** Thursday, 31 July 2025 8:57 AM  
**To:** RUSH, Rebecca <Rebecca.RUSH@infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au; s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii) @nt.gov.au

**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL: Letter from the Chief Minister to the Prime Minister regarding Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**Sensitivity:** Confidential

Good morning s22(1)  
(a)(ii)

I have just been provided with a copy of a letter signed by the Acting Prime Minister to our Chief Minister on 16 July 2025 advising that the Chief Minister's letter has been referred to the Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories.

Please let me know if you would like a copy of this letter.

Kind regards  
s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Director  
Cabinet Office and Secretariat Services  
Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Secretary to the Executive Council  
Secretary to the NT Remuneration Tribunal

Level 14, NT House, 22 Mitchell Street, Darwin  
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**From:** RUSH, Rebecca <[Rebecca.RUSH@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:Rebecca.RUSH@infrastructure.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 30 July 2025 8:30 AM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@nt.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL: Letter from the Chief Minister to the Prime Minister regarding Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

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Hello s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]>

I was sorry we could not catch up when I was up your way recently. Next time.

We are doing all that we can to make sure we can press go on our briefing materials once we are provided with the correspondence as s22(1)(a)(ii) notes below. If timing is impacted we will let you know as soon as we can.

Best

Rebecca Rush

OFFICIAL

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@nt.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 30 July 2025 8:27 AM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au>; RUSH, Rebecca <[Rebecca.RUSH@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:Rebecca.RUSH@infrastructure.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@nt.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL: Letter from the Chief Minister to the Prime Minister regarding Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

Thank you s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]>

Will this affect your timing?

Kind regards  
s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]>

Executive Director  
Cabinet Office and Secretariat Services  
Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Secretary to the Executive Council  
Secretary to the NT Remuneration Tribunal

Level 14, NT House, 22 Mitchell Street, Darwin  
GPO Box 4396, Darwin NT 0801

t. s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]>  
m. <[REDACTED]>

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**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 29 July 2025 5:08 PM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@nt.gov.au>; RUSH, Rebecca <Rebecca.RUSH@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL: Letter from the Chief Minister to the Prime Minister regarding Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

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**OFFICIAL**

Hi s22(1)(a)(ii)

Thank you for reaching out.

We are still waiting on notification from the Prime Minister's office but have the paperwork ready to send to the Minister's office as soon as we receive it.

Kind Regards,  
 s22(1)(a)(ii)

**OFFICIAL**

---

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@nt.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 29 July 2025 2:55 PM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au>; RUSH, Rebecca <Rebecca.RUSH@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@nt.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL: Letter from the Chief Minister to the Prime Minister regarding Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

Hi s22(1)(a)(ii)

Can you advise on the status of the appointment of the proposed Administrator of the Northern Territory?

Kind regards  
 s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Director  
 Cabinet Office and Secretariat Services  
 Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Secretary to the Executive Council  
 Secretary to the NT Remuneration Tribunal

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---

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 June 2025 1:49 PM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@nt.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL: Letter from the Chief Minister to the Prime Minister regarding Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
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**OFFICIAL**

Thanks s22(1)(a)(ii)

I have just sent through an invitation to yourself and s22(1)(a)(ii)

Bec Rush, Assistant Secretary, Norfolk Island and Mainland Territories, will also be joining.

Regards,  
s22(1)(a)(ii)

**OFFICIAL**

---

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@nt.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 June 2025 2:04 PM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@nt.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL: Letter from the Chief Minister to the Prime Minister regarding Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

Hi s22(1)(a)(ii)

I'm available between those times.

Please send a TEAMS invite to both myself and s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@nt.gov.au> who is the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Strategic and Corporate Services.

Kind regards  
s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Director  
Cabinet Office and Secretariat Services

Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Secretary to the Executive Council  
Secretary to the NT Remuneration Tribunal

Level 14, NT House, 22 Mitchell Street, Darwin  
GPO Box 4396, Darwin NT 0801

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---

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 25 June 2025 4:46 PM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@nt.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@nt.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL: Letter from the Chief Minister to the Prime Minister regarding Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

**OFFICIAL**

Hi s22(1)(a)(ii)

I hope you are enjoying the warmth of Darwin. I am very jealous of you at the moment.

As mentioned yesterday, we have still not received the instructions from the Prime Minister's Office, however, we have started our due diligence process so that we are ready when we receive the nomination.

I was hoping you may be available for a call over the next few days to talk through what due diligence was undertaken prior to the nomination being made. We have some time Friday afternoon (1.30pm – 3pm ACST) if you are available. Otherwise let me know if you have availability next week.

Kind Regards,  
s22(1)(a)(ii)

**OFFICIAL**

---

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 24 June 2025 5:16 PM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@nt.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@nt.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au)>; s22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL: Letter from the Chief Minister to the Prime Minister regarding Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

**OFFICIAL**

Hi s22(1)(a)(ii)

We are still waiting on the formal request from the Prime Minister's office. Following receipt of that communication, we will prepare the cabinet submission.

I will advise as soon as we receive the formal request. Hopefully it will be within the next week.

Kind Regards,  
s22(1)(a)(ii)

**OFFICIAL**

---

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@nt.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 24 June 2025 4:36 PM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@nt.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL: Letter from the Chief Minister to the Prime Minister regarding Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

Good afternoon

I hope you are both well!

Would it be possible for you to provide the status of the preparation of the submission to your Cabinet?

Kind regards  
s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Director  
 Cabinet Office and Secretariat Services  
 Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Secretary to the Executive Council  
 Secretary to the NT Remuneration Tribunal

Level 14, NT House, 22 Mitchell Street, Darwin  
 GPO Box 4396, Darwin NT 0801

t. s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]>  
 m. [redacted]  
 w. [cmc.nt.gov.au](http://cmc.nt.gov.au)

<image001.jpg>

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---

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@nt.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 13 June 2025 10:56 AM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@nt.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL: Letter from the Chief Minister to the Prime Minister regarding Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

Awesome – let me know if there is anything else you require at this stage 😊

Have a great weekend as well!

Kind regards

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Director  
Cabinet Office and Secretariat Services  
Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Secretary to the Executive Council  
Secretary to the NT Remuneration Tribunal

Level 14, NT House, 22 Mitchell Street, Darwin  
GPO Box 4396, Darwin NT 0801

t. s22(1)(a)(ii)

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[<image001.jpg>](#)

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**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Friday, 13 June 2025 10:51 AM

**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@nt.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@nt.gov.au)>; s22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL: Letter from the Chief Minister to the Prime Minister regarding Northern Territory's proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**Sensitivity:** Confidential

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OFFICIAL

Thanks s22(1)(a)(ii)

Congratulations!

We have commenced our processes so that we are ready to respond once we receive formal advice from the PMO.

Have a great weekend.

Kind Regards,  
s22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@nt.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@nt.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Friday, 13 June 2025 11:12 AM

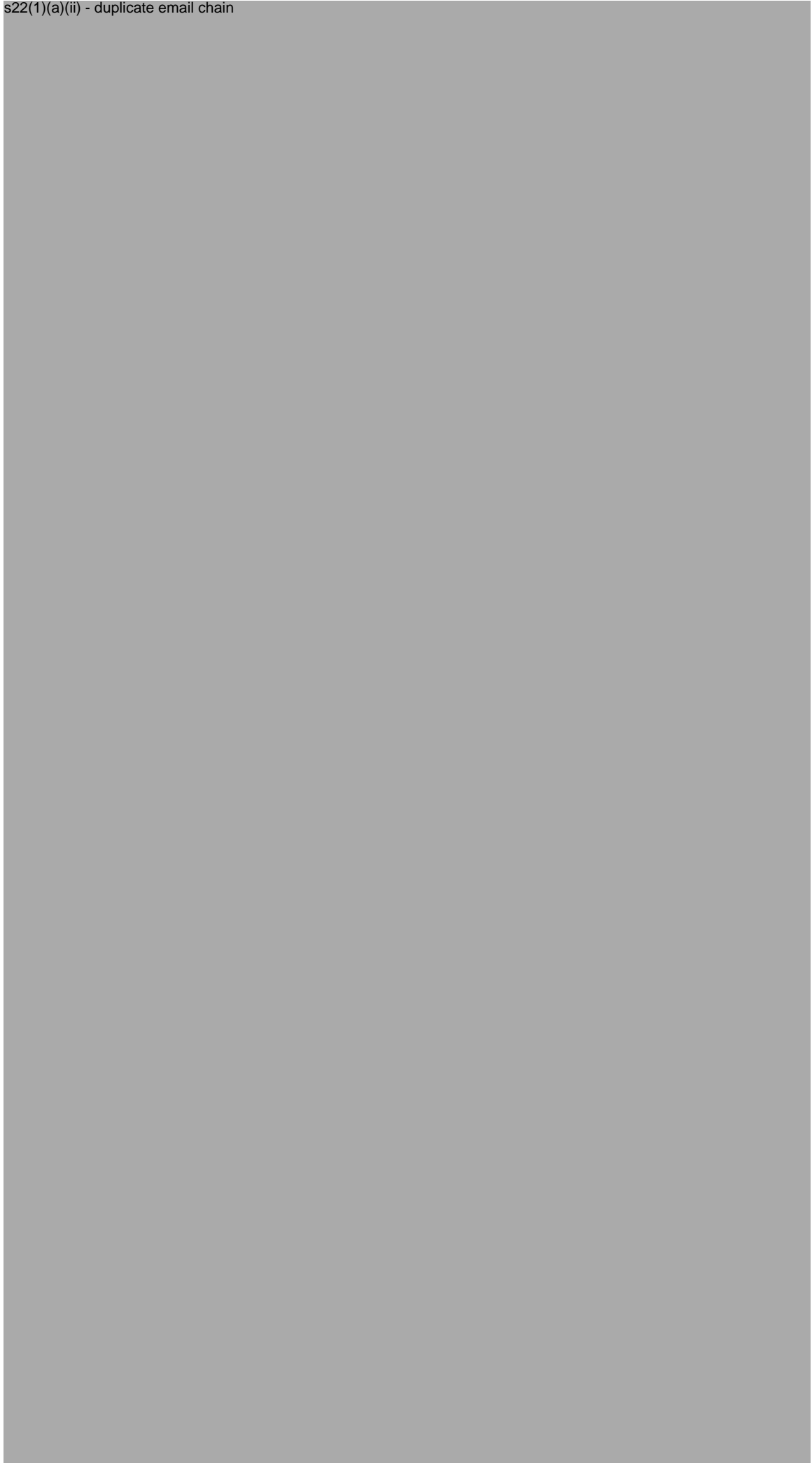
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au)>

**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au)>; s22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@nt.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@nt.gov.au)>

**Subject:** CONFIDENTIAL: Letter from the Chief Minister to the Prime Minister regarding Northern Territory's

proposed nominee for the role of the Administrator of the Northern Territory [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

s22(1)(a)(ii) - duplicate email chain



## FOI

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) @nt.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 November 2025 11:48 AM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii); s22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Update on NT Administrator Appointment [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

Good morning s22(1)(a)(ii)

Thank you for this update.

It is greatly appreciated.

Kind regards

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Director  
 Cabinet Office and Secretariat Services  
 Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Secretary to the Executive Council  
 Secretary to the NT Remuneration Tribunal

Level 14, NT House, 22 Mitchell Street, Darwin  
 GPO Box 4396, Darwin NT 0801

t. s22(1)(a)(ii)  
 m. s22(1)(a)(ii)

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---

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 November 2025 10:16 AM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) @nt.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Update on NT Administrator Appointment [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

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OFFICIAL: Sensitive // Personal-Privacy

Good Morning s22(1)(a)(ii)

I hope you have been well and had a nice weekend.

We have an update on the progress of the NT Administrator appointment, On 30 October 2025, Minister McBain signed the letter to the Prime Minister which is now sitting with the Prime Minister's Office. We will provide you with any further updates as we receive them.

Thanks s22(1)(a)(ii)

Kind regards,

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director • Mainland Territories Policy • Territories Division

s22(1)(a)(ii) [@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto: @infrastructure.gov.au)

P +61 2 s22(1)(a)

GPO Box 594 Canberra, ACT 2601

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts**  
**CONNECTING AUSTRALIANS • ENRICHING COMMUNITIES • EMPOWERING REGIONS**

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*I acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we meet, work and live.*

*I recognise and respect their continuing connection to the land, waters and communities.*

*I pay my respects to Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.*

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Released under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

## FOI

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) @nt.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 4 December 2025 11:43 AM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii); s22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT: 24th Administrator of the Northern Territory - Appointment Process [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

Hi s22(1)(a)(ii)

I appreciate and note your response.

Kind regards

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Director  
 Cabinet Office and Secretariat Services  
 Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Secretary to the Executive Council  
 Secretary to the NT Remuneration Tribunal

Level 14, NT House, 22 Mitchell Street, Darwin  
 GPO Box 4396, Darwin NT 0801

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---

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 4 December 2025 10:07 AM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) @nt.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: URGENT: 24th Administrator of the Northern Territory - Appointment Process [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

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OFFICIAL: Sensitive // Personal-Privacy

Good Morning s22(1)(a)(ii)

s34(3) This was not undertaken as a result of your request. For future reference once a date has gone to Cabinet, we are unable to simply update it. Any change would require a formal process and further approvals, so it's not as straightforward as just changing the date.

The paperwork has been submitted to ExCo for consideration on the 11 December 2025. We will advise the outcome once known.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director • Mainland Territories Policy • Territories Division

s22(1)(a)(ii) [@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au)

P +61 2 s22(1)(a)

GPO Box 594 Canberra, ACT 2601

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 I recognise and respect their continuing connection to the land, waters and communities.  
 I pay my respects to Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.*

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---

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) [@nt.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@nt.gov.au)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 4 December 2025 06:29  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) [@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au)  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) [@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au); s22(1)(a)(ii) [@nt.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@nt.gov.au)  
**Subject:** URGENT: 24th Administrator of the Northern Territory - Appointment Process [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Good morning

Please confirm that the commencement date was changed as requested so that I can inform the Northern Territory's Chief Minister.

Kind regards

s22(1)(a)  
 (ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Director  
 Cabinet Office and Secretariat Services  
 Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Secretary to the Executive Council  
 Secretary to the NT Remuneration Tribunal

Level 14, NT House, 22 Mitchell Street, Darwin

GPO Box 4396, Darwin NT 0801

t. s22(1)(a)(ii)  
 m. s22(1)(a)(ii)  
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---

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@nt.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 3 December 2025 9:41 AM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@nt.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: 24th Administrator of the Northern Territory - Appointment Process [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

## CONFIDENTIAL

Good morning s22(1)(a)(ii)

I have been asked to request that the commencement date of the new Administrator be changed from 1 April 2026 to 1 February 2026, noting that the swearing-in ceremony, to be presided over by Her Excellency, will occur at a later date convenient for the Governor-General.

Kind regards

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Director  
 Cabinet Office and Secretariat Services  
 Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Secretary to the Executive Council  
 Secretary to the NT Remuneration Tribunal

Level 14, NT House, 22 Mitchell Street, Darwin  
 GPO Box 4396, Darwin NT 0801

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---

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@nt.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 December 2025 4:16 PM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@nt.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: 24th Administrator of the Northern Territory - Appointment Process [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Good afternoon s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]>

This email seeks the status of the outcome of the Federal Cabinet's decision regarding the appointment of the 24<sup>th</sup> Administrator of the Northern Territory.

Kind regards

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Director  
 Cabinet Office and Secretariat Services  
 Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Secretary to the Executive Council  
 Secretary to the NT Remuneration Tribunal

Level 14, NT House, 22 Mitchell Street, Darwin  
 GPO Box 4396, Darwin NT 0801

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---

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 24 November 2025 12:27 PM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@nt.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: 24th Administrator of the Northern Territory - Appointment Process [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

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Good Afternoon s22(1)(a)(ii)

Apologies for the delay in getting back to you. The Instrument will have the commencement as 1 April 2026.

Kind regards,

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director • Mainland Territories Policy • Territories Division

s22(1)(a)(ii)

[@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au)

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GPO Box 594 Canberra, ACT 2601

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*I recognise and respect their continuing connection to the land, waters and communities.*

*I pay my respects to Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.*

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From: s22(1)(a)(ii) [@nt.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@nt.gov.au)>

Sent: Sunday, 23 November 2025 10:47

To: s22(1)(a)(ii) [@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au)>

Cc: s22(1)(a)(ii) [@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au); s22(1)(a)(ii)

[@nt.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@nt.gov.au)>

Subject: Re: 24th Administrator of the Northern Territory - Appointment Process [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive // Personal-Privacy

Morning

Just a thought as to whether the instrument appointing the new Administrator have the commencement as 1 April?

Kind regards

s22(1)(a)  
iii

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Director

Cabinet Office and Secretariat Services

Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Secretary to the Executive Council

Secretary to the NT Remuneration Tribunal

Level 14, NT House, 22 Mitchell Street, Darwin

GPO Box 4396, Darwin NT 0801

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---

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au>

**Sent:** Thursday, November 20, 2025 1:16:21 PM

To: s22(1)(a)(ii) @nt.gov.au>  
Cc: s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au>  
Subject: Re: 24th Administrator of the Northern Territory - Appointment Process [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

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**OFFICIAL: Sensitive // Personal-Privacy**

Hi s22(1)(a)(ii)

We are proposing the term of acting arrangements up until 1 April 2026.

Kind regards,

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director • Mainland Territories Policy • Territories Division

s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au

P +61 2 s22(1)(a)

GPO Box 594 Canberra, ACT 2601

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*I pay my respects to Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.*

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From: s22(1)(a)(ii) @nt.gov.au>  
Sent: Thursday, 20 November 2025 14:42  
To: s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au>  
Cc: s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @nt.gov.au>

Subject: RE: 24th Administrator of the Northern Territory - Appointment Process [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

Thank you

Can I ask if a term of the acting arrangements is included in the submission?

Kind regards

s22(1)(a)

iii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Director  
Cabinet Office and Secretariat Services  
Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Secretary to the Executive Council  
Secretary to the NT Remuneration Tribunal

Level 14, NT House, 22 Mitchell Street, Darwin  
GPO Box 4396, Darwin NT 0801

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**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]> <[\[redacted\]@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 20 November 2025 1:11 PM

**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]> <[\[redacted\]@nt.gov.au](mailto:[redacted]@nt.gov.au)>

**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]> <[\[redacted\]@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Re: 24th Administrator of the Northern Territory - Appointment Process [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

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**OFFICIAL: Sensitive // Personal-Privacy**

Hi s22(1)(a)(ii)

We are aiming to have the Acting Administrator arrangements submission with the Minister next week for consideration.

Kind regards,

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director • Mainland Territories Policy • Territories Division

s22(1)(a)(ii) <[\[redacted\]@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au)>

P +61 2 s22(1)(a)

GPO Box 594 Canberra, ACT 2601

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts  
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*I acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we meet, work and live.*

*I recognise and respect their continuing connection to the land, waters and communities.*

*I pay my respects to Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.*

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**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@nt.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 November 2025 14:37  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@nt.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: 24th Administrator of the Northern Territory - Appointment Process [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

Thank you s22(1)(a)(ii)

We appreciate the update and look forward to further advice regarding the outcome of the Federal Cabinet.

Have you had the opportunity to commence the process regarding the Acting Administrator arrangements?

Kind regards

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Director  
 Cabinet Office and Secretariat Services  
 Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Secretary to the Executive Council  
 Secretary to the NT Remuneration Tribunal

Level 14, NT House, 22 Mitchell Street, Darwin  
 GPO Box 4396, Darwin NT 0801

t. s22(1)(a)(ii)

m. s22(1)(a)(ii)  
 w. [cmc.nt.gov.au](http://cmc.nt.gov.au)



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---

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 November 2025 1:02 PM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@nt.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@nt.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: 24th Administrator of the Northern Territory - Appointment Process [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

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Good Afternoon s22(1)(a)(ii)

Thank you for your time speaking to s22(1)(a) and myself on Tuesday. I am writing to advise that we have the NT Administrator appointment item currently listed on the agenda for the Executive Council meeting scheduled for **11 December 2025**.

s47C In order for our matter to be formally considered at ExCo on 11 December, we require their decision **no later than 1 December 2025**.

We will keep you updated as things progress.

Thanks s22(1)(a)(ii) and I hope you have a nice day.

Kind regards,

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director • Mainland Territories Policy • Territories Division

s22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au)>

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GPO Box 594 Canberra, ACT 2601

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*I recognise and respect their continuing connection to the land, waters and communities.*

*I pay my respects to Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.*

---

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@nt.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 10 November 2025 09:38  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: 24th Administrator of the Northern Territory - Appointment Process [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

Hi s22(1)(a)

Thank you.

I have forwarded the invite to s22(1)(a)(ii), Deputy Chief Executive Officer Strategic and Corporate Services.

For your awareness only, I have attached an article in today's NT News regarding His Honour's term ending.

Kind regards

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Director  
 Cabinet Office and Secretariat Services  
 Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Secretary to the Executive Council  
 Secretary to the NT Remuneration Tribunal

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---

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) [@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:infrastructure@nt.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 10 November 2025 7:37 AM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) [@nt.gov.au](mailto:infrastructure@nt.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) [@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:infrastructure@nt.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: 24th Administrator of the Northern Territory - Appointment Process [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

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Hi s22(1)(a)(ii)

I have sent through the invitation.

Please feel free to forward at your end to others that need to join.

s22(1)(a)

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**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) @nt.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 10 November 2025 06:44  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @nt.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: 24th Administrator of the Northern Territory - Appointment Process [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

Hi s22(1)(a)

Can we look at 11.00am to midday (ACST) on the 18<sup>th</sup>?

Kind regards

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Executive Director

Cabinet Office and Secretariat Services

Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Secretary to the Executive Council

Secretary to the NT Remuneration Tribunal

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---

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) [@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:infrastructure@nt.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 6 November 2025 1:32 PM

**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) [@nt.gov.au](mailto:infrastructure@nt.gov.au)>

**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) [@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:infrastructure@nt.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Re: 24th Administrator of the Northern Territory - Appointment Process [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

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Hi s22(1)(a)(ii)

Any of the following times work for us:

- Tuesday 11 November - anytime prior to 2pm
- Wednesday 12 November - 11.30am - 12.30pm or after 3.30pm
- Monday 17 November - anytime
- Tuesday 18 November - anytime prior to 2pm

Noting the times above are AESDST,

If none of the times above work, then let me know and I can move some other meetings.

Thanks

s22(1)(a)

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---

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) [@nt.gov.au](mailto:nt.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 6 November 2025 14:41

**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) [@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:infrastructure.gov.au)>

**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) [@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:infrastructure.gov.au)>; s22(1)(a)(ii) [@nt.gov.au](mailto:nt.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: 24th Administrator of the Northern Territory - Appointment Process [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

Good afternoon s22(1)(a)

Thank you for your email.

We would like to schedule a time with you to discuss the acting arrangements, however I just need to obtain the availability of s22(1)(a)(iii) before I can identify a date that suits.

Are there any dates and times that do not suit you?

Kind regards

s22(1)(a)(iii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Director

Cabinet Office and Secretariat Services

Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Secretary to the Executive Council

Secretary to the NT Remuneration Tribunal

Level 14, NT House, 22 Mitchell Street, Darwin

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---

**From:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 6 November 2025 10:49 AM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@nt.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>  
**Subject:** 24th Administrator of the Northern Territory - Appointment Process [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

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Hi s22(1)(a)(ii)

As per the email from s22(1)(a)(ii) on Monday, the nomination for the 24<sup>th</sup> Administrator of the Northern Territory is with the Prime Minister for consideration.

We have revised our timeline (see attached) and note that even if a Cabinet decision is made in time for the appointment to be considered at the final 2025 Executive Council meeting scheduled for the 11 December, we will likely not be ready to undertake the swearing in ceremony until March 2026.

With this in mind, I would be grateful if we could organise a time to discuss possible acting arrangements and appointment start dates.

Please let me know your availability early next week and I will send through an invitation.

Please let also me know if there are specific administrative steps that we may have missed in the timeline - this is our first NT Administrator Appointment process so welcome any feedback or advice.

Kind Regards,

s22(1)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Director • Mainland Territories Policy • Territories Division

s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au

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*I acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we meet, work and live.*

*I recognise and respect their continuing connection to the land, waters and communities.*

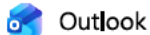
*I pay my respects to Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.*

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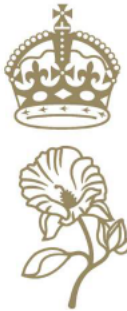
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Released under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

**FW: Questions for David Connolly re social media posts**

From [s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@nt.gov.au](#)  
 Date Tue 20/01/2026 15:54  
 To [s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@infrastructure.gov.au](#)

Kind regards  
[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)



[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) | Official Secretary to the Administrator  
 Office of the Official Secretary  
 Government House  
 GPO Box 497, Darwin NT 0801  
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 m. +61 [s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

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Government House acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of the Northern Territory and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Australian Honours: [Nominate](#) a worthy Australian.

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**From:** Media CMC <[Media.CMC@nt.gov.au](mailto:Media.CMC@nt.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 20 January 2026 2:04 PM  
**To:** [s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@nt.gov.au](#); [s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@nt.gov.au](#)  
**Cc:** [s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@nt.gov.au](#); [s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@nt.gov.au](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Questions for David Connolly re social media posts

Hi [s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)  
 Please see below follow-up query from NT Independent.  
 Kind regards  
[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

Communications Manager  
 Strategic Communications and Engagement  
 Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Level 3 NT House, 22 Mitchell Street Darwin  
 GPO Box 4396, Darwin NT 0801

t. [s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)  
 m. [s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)  
 e. [s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@nt.gov.au](#)



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**From:** [s47F@NTIndependent.com.au](#)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 20 January 2026 1:50 PM

To: Media CMC <[Media.CMC@nt.gov.au](mailto:Media.CMC@nt.gov.au)>  
 Subject: Re: Questions for David Connolly re social media posts

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Apologies, I should have added that The Guardian reported this morning that Mr Connolly said at a 2024 Cattlemen's Association conference:

"The main group of people perpetrating these criminal actions have been in Australia for 60,000 years. The English didn't send them here. They are the product of failed policy and a soft on crime attitude."

His statement only referenced his social media comments. Does he intend to explain what he meant by the above comment at the conference? Or do they not fall under the claim of not intending to cause offence?

And again, will he be apologising for all of his comments?

---

**From:** s47F <[REDACTED]@NTIndependent.com.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 20, 2026 1:47 PM  
**To:** Media CMC <[Media.CMC@nt.gov.au](mailto:Media.CMC@nt.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Questions for David Connolly re social media posts

Thank you for sending the statement from Mr Connolly yesterday. I have received a joint statement this morning from the Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians Malarndirri McCarthy and federal members Luke Gosling and Marion Scrymgour in which they have called on Mr Connolly to publicly apologise for his "reprehensible and offensive" social media comments.

Will Mr Connolly be apologising for the hurtful comments he made?

If not, why not?

Here is what the federal members said in the statement:

*[STARTS]*

*Previous social media comments by Mr Connolly are reprehensible and offensive and he should apologise.*

*The NT Administrator plays an important role in the functioning of our democracy.*

*More than that, they should stand as a unifying figure above party politics and represent all Territorians.*

*The choice of Administrator has always been a matter for the NT Government. [ENDS]*

Will need a response as soon as possible for deadline.

Thanks in advance,

s47F  
 [REDACTED]




---

Editor | NT Independent

P: s47F  
 [REDACTED]

E: s47F <[\[REDACTED\]@NTIndependent.com.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@NTIndependent.com.au)>



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**From:** Media CMC <[Media.CMC@nt.gov.au](mailto:Media.CMC@nt.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 19, 2026 3:53 PM  
**To:** s47F <[REDACTED]> <[\[REDACTED\]@NTIndependent.com.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@NTIndependent.com.au)>  
**Cc:** Media CMC <[Media.CMC@nt.gov.au](mailto:Media.CMC@nt.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Questions for David Connolly re social media posts

Hi s47F <[REDACTED]>

FYI this statement below has been issued by David Connolly.

**Personal statement from David Connolly, incoming Administrator of the Northern Territory, distributed by this office on his behalf.**

It was never my intention to cause offence; I fully understand and appreciate the expectations of the community and my role as Administrator.

I have always been a fierce advocate for the bush and will now be a fierce advocate for all Territorians.

My former social media posts are exactly that and were done at a time when having the honour and privilege of being the Administrator was not even in my wildest dreams.

I love this place and look forward to getting out and working for everyone right across the Territory.

CMC Media

---

**From:** s47F [redacted] <[redacted]@NTIndependent.com.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 19 January 2026 3:31 PM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) [redacted] <[redacted]@nt.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Questions for David Connolly re social media posts

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Hi s22(1)(a)(ii) [redacted]

I understand Mr Connolly has issued a statement, as reported by the NT News. Can you send that to me or explain where I can obtain that if not from you.

Thanks,

s47F [redacted]

---

**From:** s47F [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, 16 January 2026 4:33 PM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) [redacted] <[redacted]@nt.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Questions for David Connolly re social media posts

Hi s22(1)(a)(ii) [redacted]

Just checking in to see if you had an opportunity to consult with Mr Connolly about the questions I sent earlier and if I can expect a response today before the story runs?

Thanks,

s47F [redacted]

---

**From:** s47F [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, 16 January 2026 12:18 PM  
**To:** s22(1)(a)(ii) [redacted] <[redacted]@nt.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Questions for David Connolly re social media posts

Hi s22(1)(a)(ii) [redacted]

I'm sending these questions to you for David Connolly as I do not have an email address or contact info for him. They are around racist comments he has made on social media and directly affect his role as incoming Administrator so I would be deeply appreciative if you can ensure he receives these before I run the story later today.

Questions for David Connolly:

We have been sent posts made on social media platform X in which you have made comments about Aboriginal people and culture that could be described as racist (see attached).

What did you mean when you referenced Aboriginal controlled bushfires and stated that: "you cannot convince me they are doing good for the country"? Were you implying that Aboriginal people have not done anything good for Australia?

Why would you make that comment on social media?

How can you represent all Territorians as Administrator when you hold views that are clearly aligned against Indigenous Territorians?

In one attached post you seem to be disrespecting Indigenous culture, stating that you are "indigenous to Australia" – is this comment appropriate for an Administrator to make?

Do you not respect Indigenous Australians?

In another post, you seem to mock Welcome to Country ceremonies – is this appropriate for an Administrator? Will you oversee the end of Welcome to Country ceremonies in the NT as Administrator?

Did you make the Chief Minister aware of your X account and the comments you made on there before you were selected as Administrator? If not, why not?

What did the vetting process entail?

It appears in many posts that you refer to your wife as "The Cook" – is there a reason for that or just to perpetuate antiquated domestic stereotypes?

In other posts, you mention that Aboriginal people get unfair, beneficial treatment from the government at the expense of white Australians – do you still believe this to be the case?

Do you feel your negative comments about Aboriginal Australians are appropriate for an Administrator?

Will your views affect how you function in the role of Administrator – if not, why not?

Will you resign as Administrator or apologise for these comments?

That should be it for now but feel free to add any other comment you wish to make on the posts. Will need a response as soon as possible for deadline. We will be running the story with or without comment from you, but would like to give you the opportunity to explain these posts to the public.

Thanks in advance,

s47F

s47F



Editor | NT Independent

P: s47F

E: s47F @NTIndependent.com.au



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H s22(1)