

Northern Territory Election Update

July 2016

The next Northern Territory election is scheduled to be held on the 27 August 2016.

The official election campaign will commence with the issuing of the writs on the 1 August 2016.

The Northern Territory Legislative Assembly is a unicameral parliament consisting of 25 members.

Currently, the Country Liberal Party (CLP) leads the Northern Territory Government in a minority government.

Published polling and betting markets currently put Labor ahead of the CLP Government to win the election.

Current Parliament

Country Liberal Party	Labor Party	Independents
Adam Giles, Chief Minister Member for Braitling Margin 19.6%	Michael Gunner, Opposition Leader Member for Fannie Bay Margin 6.4%	Alison Anderson Member for Namatjira Margin 22.8% (CLP at time of election)* not contesting seat in 2016 election
Peter Chandler Member for Brennan Margin 14%	Natasha Fyles Member for Nightcliff Margin 9.2%	Robyn Lambley Member for Araluen Margin: 20% (CLP at time of election)
Matthew Conlan Member for Greatorex Margin 14.8%	Nicole Manison Member for Wanguri Margin 6.9% (by-election)	Larisa Lee Member for Arnhem Margin: 4.3% (CLP at time of election)
John Elferink Member for Port Darwin Margin 9.2% * not contesting seat in 2016 election	Gerry McCarthy Member for Barkly Margin 7.6%	Kezia Purick Member for Goyder Margin 16% (CLP at time of election)
Lia Finocchiaro Member for Drysdale Margin 11.5% * will contest the new seat of Spillet Margin 17.9%	Lauren Moss Member for Casuarina Margin 8.9%	Gerry Wood Member for Nelson Margin 9.2%
Gary Higgins Member for Daly Margin 5.2%	Ken Vowles Member for Johnston Margin 6.6%	Delia Lawrie Member for Karama Margin 6.4% (ALP at time of election)
Francis Xavier Member for Arafura Margin: 2.4%	Lynne Walker Member for Nhulunbuy Margin 13.7 %	Nathan Barrett Member for Blain Margin 15.1% (by-election) * not contesting seat in 2016 election

Bess Price Member for Stuart Margin 5.5%		
Peter Styles Member for Sanderson Margin 3.2%		
Dave Tollner Member for Fong Lim Margin 0.2% * seat abolished, not contesting 2016 election		
Willem Westra Van Holthe Member for Katherine Margin 22.3%		
Total: 11 seats	Total: 7 seats	Total: 7 seats

Read more for a full list of NT [Labor Candidates](#) and [CLP Candidates](#). Nominations for seats will remain open till the writs are issued on the 1 August 2016.

Key Personnel

Chief Minister the Hon Adam Giles MP

The Hon Adam Giles replaced the Hon Terry Mills as leader of the Country Liberal Party on 13 March 2013.

Mr Giles was elected to the Alice Spring-based seat of Braitling at the 2008 election.

Prior to becoming Chief Minister, Mr Giles was the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government.

Giles was born in the Blue Mountains. He started his career in the public sector, later moving to Canberra to work as a social and economic policy advisor for the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

Mr Giles' policy interests include infrastructure development in the Northern Territory, sustainability and ensuring that the Northern Territory is a commercial hub that connects the Australian economy with Asia.

Giles is the first head of government in Australia to have Indigenous Australian ancestry.



Opposition Leader the Hon Michael Gunner MP

The Hon Michael Gunner was elected Labor leader on 19 April 2015.

Mr Gunner was elected to the Darwin-based seat of Fannie Bay in 2008.





He is currently the Opposition Leader, Shadow Treasurer, Shadow Minister for Major Projects, Northern Australia Development, Police, Fire and Emergency Services, Open and Transparent Government and Business.

Mr Gunner is a fourth generation Territorian who was born in Alice Springs, went to primary school in Tennant Creek, and graduated from Charles Darwin University. He was involved in student politics and served as policy advisor to, then Chief Minister, Claire Martin. When Ms Martin retired in 2008, Mr Gunner took over the seat of Fannie Bay.

History of Government in the Northern Territory

The first Legislative Council for the Northern Territory was formed in March 1948. In 1974 the Legislative Council was replaced by a fully elected Legislative Assembly with nineteen members. In 1978 the Territory achieved self-government and in 1982, the number of members in the Legislative Assembly increased to 25.

From the Parliament's establishment in 1974 until the 2001 Territory election, the Legislative Council and later Legislative Assembly were controlled by the CLP.

In 2001, the ALP, led by Clare Martin MP, won government. The ALP increased its majority to 19 seats at the 2005 election. Ms Martin served as the Territory's first Labor and first female Chief Minister until her resignation in 2007.

In 2007, Paul Henderson MP took over as leader of the ALP and Chief Minister. In 2008 Mr Henderson won the election with a one-seat majority.

On 4 June 2009, former Labor Minister, Marion Scrymgour MP resigned from the ALP and moved to the crossbench as an independent. In August 2009, Labor MP Alison Anderson, also resigned from the ALP, triggering the CLP Opposition to move a motion of no-confidence against Mr Henderson, which was defeated by one vote. The ALP continued to lead in minority government with the support of Independent MP Gerry Wood.

At the 2012 Northern Territory election, the 11-year Labor government, led by Chief Minister Henderson, was defeated by the CLP Opposition, led by Terry Mills MP, with a gain of four seats.

Current political environment

Six members of the Country Liberal Party have left the CLP to become independents since coming into office at the last election in August 2012, with one member (Francis Xavier) returning to the CLP.

A by-election for the seat of Wanguri was held on 16 February 2013, following the resignation of former Chief Minister Paul Henderson. Nicole Manison from the ALP was successful with nearly 70 per cent of the Two Party Preferred vote.

On 13 March 2013, while then-Chief Minister Terry Mills MP was on a trade visit to Japan, Adam Giles MP, with the support of Dave Tollner MP, successfully challenged for the leadership. As a result, Mr Mills was replaced as Chief Minister by Mr Giles. On 20 February 2014, Mr Mills announced his resignation from Parliament.



A by-election for the seat of Blain was held on 12 April 2014 following Mr Mills's resignation. The CLP candidate Nathan Barrett held the seat, and was elected with 53.2 per cent of the 2-party preferred vote (representing roughly a 10% swing to Labor).

Willem Westra van Holthe launched an unsuccessful leadership bid within the CLP, on 2 February 2015. Though he was successful in achieving enough votes within the CLP to take over as leader, Mr Westra van Holthe did not hold enough votes on the floor of Parliament to successfully take over as leader of the Government. The stalemate was resolved at a party meeting on the afternoon of 3 February. An agreement was reached whereby Mr Giles would continue as leader, and Mr Westra Van Holthe would become his Deputy.

On the 13 April 2015, the ALP's Caucus brought on a leadership spill to resolve leadership issues around Delia Lawrie, and findings from Ms Lawrie's involvement in ongoing Supreme Court case. Michael Gunner challenged then the leader on 15 April 2015. Four days later, following Ms Lawrie's resignation, Mr Gunner was elected Labor leader unopposed.

On the 2 October 2015, the ALP announced its preselected candidates for the 2016 election endorsing Ngaree Ah Kit as the ALP Candidate for the seat of Karama, and dis-endorsing sitting member Delia Lawrie.

On the 8th October 2015 Delia Lawrie confirmed she will run as an independent in the seat of Karama.

A number of controversial incidents have led to several CLP Ministers resigning, and 17 reshuffles/changes of portfolios during the CLP's term of Government.

Current Ministries

Government Ministers

Hon Adam Giles MLA <i>Chief Minister</i>	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services
	Minister for Tourism
	Minister for Northern and Central Australia
	Minister for Economic Development and Major Projects
	Minister for Indigenous Affairs
	Sport and Recreation and Young Territorians
	Minister for Correctional Services
Hon Peter Styles MLA	Minister for Business
	Minister for Racing, Gaming and Licensing
	Minister for Asian Engagement and Trade
	Minister for Employment and Training
	Minister for Public Employment
	Minister for Corporate and Information Services
	Minister for Multicultural Affairs
	Minister for Defence Industries
Minister for Senior Territorians	
Hon David Tollner MLA	Treasurer
	Minister for Lands and Planning
	Minister for Mines and Energy
Hon Johan (John) Elferink MLA	Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
	Minister for Children and Families
	Minister for Health
	Minister for Disability Services
	Minister for Mental Health Services
Hon Peter Chandler MLA	Minister for Education
	Minister for Transport
	Minister for Infrastructure
	Minister for Essential Services
	Minister for Veterans Support
Hon Gary Higgins MLA	Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries
	Minister for Land Resource Management
	Minister for the Environment
	Minister for Arts and Museums
	Minister for Sport and Recreation
	Minister for Young Territorians
Hon Bess Price MLA	Minister for Local Government and Community Services
	Minister for Housing
	Minister for Parks and Wildlife
	Minister for Men's Policy
	Minister for Women's Policy
Minister for Statehood	



Shadow Ministers

Michael Gunner MLA <i>Leader of the Opposition</i>	Shadow Minister for Major Projects
	Shadow Minister for Northern Australia Development
	Shadow Treasurer
	Shadow Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services
	Shadow Minister for Open and Transparent Government Business
Lynne Walker MLA <i>Deputy Leader of the Opposition</i>	Shadow Minister for Health
	Shadow Minister for Tourism
	Shadow Minister for Public Employment
	Shadow Minister for Statehood
	Shadow Minister for Women's Policy
Natasha Fyles MLA	Shadow Minister for Attorney-General and Justice
	Shadow Minister for Corrections
	Shadow Minister for Alcohol Policy
	Shadow Minister for Racing, Gaming and Licensing
	Shadow Minister for Sport and Recreation
	Shadow Minister for Lands and Planning
Gerald McCarthy MLA	Shadow Minister for Infrastructure
	Shadow Minister for Climate Change
	Shadow Minister for Employment and Training
	Shadow Minister for Science and Innovation
	Shadow Minister for Local Government
	Shadow Minister for Community Services
Ken Vowles MLA	Shadow Minister for Natural Resources
	Shadow Minister for Environment
	Shadow Minister for Arts and Museums
	Shadow Minister for Indigenous Policy
	Shadow Minister for Regional Economic Development
	Shadow Minister for Resources
	Shadow Minister for Mines and Energy
	Shadow Minister for Primary Industries
Nicole Manison MLA	Shadow Minister for Fisheries
	Shadow Minister for Transport
	Shadow Minister for Asian Relations and Trade
	Shadow Minister for Central Australia
	Shadow Minister for Education
Lauren Moss MLA	Shadow Minister for Heritage
	Shadow Minister for Parks and Wildlife
	Shadow Minister for Essential Services
	Shadow Minister for Defence Support
	Shadow Minister for Government Accountability
Lauren Moss MLA	Shadow Minister for Child Protection
	Shadow Minister for Family and Children's Services
	Shadow Minister for Disability and Mental Health
	Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs
	Shadow Minister for Senior and Young Territorians



	Shadow Minister for Corporate and Information Services
	Shadow Minister for Public and Affordable Housing

Further information

For more background on the NT Parliament click [here](#).