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THE SUPREME COURT OF

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

SCC 22542575

THE KING

and

CLEVELAND DOOLAN

(Sentence)

BARR J

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

AT ALICE SPRINGS ON FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER 2026

Transcribed by:
EPIQ

HIS HONOUR: Cleveland Doolan, yesterday, 8 October, you entered pleas of guilty to five counts charged on the indictment dated 6 October 2026. The offending occurred at Titjikala in the Northern Territory on 11 August 2025.

By your plea of guilty to count 1, you admit that you caused harm to Hayden Lillis-Jones with intent to resist or prevent your lawful arrest or detention. That offence carries a maximum penalty of imprisonment for life.

By your plea of guilty to count 2, you admit that you assaulted Hayden Lillis-Jones, a police officer in the execution of his duty, with the circumstances of aggravation that the victim suffered bodily harm.

By your plea of guilty to count 3, you admit that you assaulted Zachary Pietzsch, a police officer in the execution of his duty, with the circumstances of aggravation that the victim suffered bodily harm.

Counts 2 and 3 each carry a maximum penalty of imprisonment of 7 years.

By your plea of guilty to count 4, you admit that you escaped from lawful confinement or detention. That offence carries a maximum sentence of imprisonment of 12 months.

Finally, by your plea of guilty to count 5, you admit that you caused damage to handcuffs belonging to the Northern Territory Police Force. That offence carries a maximum penalty of imprisonment of 10 years.

You were born on 25 April 2003 and so at the time of offending, you were 22 years old. You had a relevant criminal history, including for violent offending against females, resisting police in the execution of their duty, as well as property offences.

You committed a male on female aggravated assault causing harm in July 2020. You were 17 years and 3 months old at the time. You were released by the Youth Justice Court on a 12-month good behaviour order.

On 19 December 2021, at the age of 18 years and 8 months, you committed a male on female aggravated assault causing harm. You were sentenced to a term of imprisonment of 4 months. You were also dealt with for a contravention of a DVO.

On 23 February 2022, inter alia, you drove a motor vehicle at a speed and in a manner dangerous. You also engaged in threatening behaviour in a public place.

On 2 September 2022, you resisted police in the execution of their duty. You were sentenced to 21 days in gaol.

On 19 October 2022, you committed another male on female aggravated assault, this time causing harm to a defenceless victim by the use of a weapon. You

were sentenced to imprisonment for 6 months. You were also dealt with for the offence of engaging in violent conduct and being armed with an offensive weapon.

On 6 November 2022, you committed another male on female aggravated assault, again causing harm to a defenceless victim by the use of a weapon. You received a 12-month prison sentence for that offending.

I note that on 9 November 2022, you committed yet another male on female aggravated assault causing harm to a defenceless victim by the use of a weapon. For that, you were sentenced to 9 months in prison.

You were sentenced in respect of more than 20 offences on 14 April 2023. However, with respect to exhibit P3, the Information for Courts document, it is difficult to ascertain the total effective sentence. The Local Court fixed a 24-month non-parole period.

I will now speak about the offending that has brought you before this Court.

Your co-offender was your 46-year-old father, Jamie Doolan. The victims were Remote Sergeant Hayden Lillis-Jones and Constable Zachary Pietzsch of the Northern Territory Police Force.

On 22 April 2025, your parole was revoked by the Parole Board and a warrant issued for your arrest. On 11 August 2025 at 1:17 pm, you were arrested by Sergeant Lillis-Jones and Constable Pietzsch in Titjikala community after a short foot pursuit; in other words, the police had to chase after you to catch you. Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Emma Hayes was present inside the police vehicle. You were in the lawful custody of the Police and you were not free to leave.

You had been told that you were under arrest by Constable Pietzsch and placed in handcuffs. You were seated on the ground next to the police vehicle.

At 1:19 pm, your father and other unidentified family members of yours moved towards you, Constable Pietzsch and Sergeant Lillis-Jones.

The facts in relation to count 1 are that you became verbally aggressive towards Constable Pietzsch and incited others to aid you by yelling out, and I quote, “Hit them. We kill them motherfuckers. Hit them.”

Sergeant Lillis-Jones positioned himself between Pietzsch, you and the encroaching persons. Your father than ran with speed directly into Sergeant Lillis-Jones using a hip and shoulder technique in an attempt to knock him over and which caused him to stumble.

The facts in relation to count 2 are that while sitting on the ground, you kicked Sergeant Lillis-Jones.

Your father then armed himself with a large rock and threw it with force at Lillis-Jones striking him to the ribs and causing immediate pain. Lillis-Jones deployed OC spray in an effort to defend himself and maintain control of the scene.

The facts in relation to count 3 are that you got to your feet and charged at Constable Pietzsch, kicking him as he retreated.

Constable Pietzsch and Sergeant Lillis-Jones then retreated to the police vehicle.

As Lillis-Jones was moving towards the driver's side door, your father approached him, armed with a large rock in each hand. He threw one rock at the head of Sergeant Lillis-Jones which fortunately narrowly missed.

Lillis-Jones deployed OC spray to defend himself which caused your father to run a short distance away. Sergeant Lillis-Jones then returned to the driver's side of the police vehicle where an unknown woman was attempting to enter the vehicle. Constable Pietzsch and Sergeant Lillis-Jones deployed OC spray at the woman to prevent her from entering the vehicle.

Once Lillis-Jones was inside the vehicle, your father and other people began throwing rocks at the police vehicle. Your father threw a large rock at the windscreen, causing the glass to shatter and glass to spray over Lillis-Jones.

Sergeant Lillis-Jones and Constable Pietzsch retreated from Titjikala community in the police vehicle.

The facts in relation to count 4 are, that as a result of your conduct and that of your father, you were able to escape from your arrest and lawful detention, and you did indeed escape.

On 12 August 2025, you and your father boarded a community bus to Alice Springs from the Titjikala community. At 4:04 pm on 12 August, both you and your father were arrested on Maryvale Road, Alice Springs, when the bus was intercepted by police. You and your father were taken to the Alice Springs watchhouse and processed into custody.

In relation to count 5, the facts state that at the time of your arrest, you were still wearing handcuffs on both of your wrists. The handcuffs were heavily damaged having been cut in half. The police vehicle also sustained damage to the driver's side mirror, front windscreen and the indicator stick was broken off.

In terms of personal injuries, Sergeant Lillis-Jones sustained bruising, swelling and pain to his right rib area. Constable Pietzsch suffered bruising, swelling and pain to his left thigh.

Consideration of the offending

I want to say something now about your role in what happened.

I have come to the conclusion that you started everything bad that happened that day.

You were determined not to be arrested after your parole had been revoked. First, you ran away from the arresting officers which meant that they had to chase after you. Next, after you were caught and arrested, you falsely claimed that you were Kelvin Doolan and that police had got the wrong person. You repeated that once, possibly even twice. When that did not work, you incited family members and others to violence against Constable Pietzsch and his fellow officer, Sergeant Lillis-Jones. That triggered violent action by your father; initially the hip and shoulder charge against Sergeant Lillis-Jones.

After that, with large rocks being thrown around, the situation deteriorated into dangerous violence which ultimately led to the police retreating from the community.

Not only did you start and initially direct the trouble, you committed assaults against both police officers. You kicked Sergeant Lillis-Jones when you were still on the ground. And when you got to your feet, you charged at Constable Pietzsch and kicked him.

A relatively brief extract of video footage downloaded from the police body-worn video camera depicts a frightening and chaotic scene. It gives a rare insight into the risks faced by Northern Territory police members who sometimes have to deal with irrational and violent remote community residents in the course of their duties. Of course, the violence is not restricted to the residents of remote communities. The violence can also occur in Indigenous communities in or near the larger population centres.

The police members in this case are to be commended for remaining calm in the face of danger and wisely retreating from the hostile group of Aboriginal people without further incident.

I want to say something now about parity, that is comparing your offending with that of your father and to that extent, considering whether the sentences should be the same or different.

Your father pleaded guilty to two counts which were essentially the same as counts 1 and 2 to which you pleaded guilty. He was sentenced to a total effective term of 3 years and 6 months' imprisonment with a 2-year non-parole period fixed by the judge. Your father's conduct was much more violent than yours. But as I have explained, you incited your father's violence. To some extent, you were responsible for your father's conduct.

Your father had six prior offences for violence and had spent considerable amounts of time in custody. He had a long record of breaching court orders, bail conditions and domestic violence orders and had previous convictions for resisting police. In your case, although I take into account your relative youth, you also had a significant criminal record. You have in the past been given chances and you have not taken advantage of them. I refer to your breach of parole, resulting in the revocation of parole and ultimately, your very poor response to your arrest. I agree with the submission made by the learned prosecutor yesterday that you have shown a propensity for violence and aggressive behaviour.

As best I can assess, your rehabilitation prospects are guarded.

However, your counsel did point to some positive signs. He told the court that you left school after you completed Year 11 at Yirara College. You then participated in CDP work and practical training, including chainsaw and welding courses. Your counsel told the court that, while in custody, you have been working four days a week in the prison laundry. You are keen to improve your job skills and you are to be commended for that.

Your counsel informed the court that you have been of good behaviour while you have been held on remand. Your counsel submitted yesterday that your practical skills, your work routine and the fact that you have identified your place of return, being the community in Titjikala, provide a foundation for further training, productive activity and rehabilitation. These are no doubt matters which will be considered by the Parole Board at the appropriate time.

Sentence

I formally convict you on all counts.

For count 1, I note the harm, such as it was, which you caused to Sergeant Lillis-Jones and the purpose for which the harm was caused.

I take as my starting point a term of imprisonment of 3 years. However, I will take off 8 months to reflect your plea of guilty. I sentence you to a term of imprisonment of 2 years and 4 months. The sentence should be backdated and deemed to have commenced on 10 February 2026.

On count 2, I assess your conduct in assaulting Sergeant Lillis as relatively low-level. Also, I note it was part of the same overall offending covered under count 1. I sentence you to a term of imprisonment of 6 months to be served wholly concurrently with the sentence on count 1.

On count 3, the assault of Constable Pietzsch, the situation is somewhat different. You charged and kicked the constable as you made good your escape. I take as my starting point a term of imprisonment of 18 months. I will take off 4 months for your plea of guilty and sentence you to a term of imprisonment of 14

months. This sentence is to be served cumulatively on the sentence on count 1 by 8 months.

For count 4, escaping from lawful confinement or detention, I note the relatively low maximum penalty. However, I take into account the violent circumstances in which you escaped. I sentence you to a term of imprisonment of 8 months which should be served cumulatively on the sentence on count 3 by 4 months.

Finally, for count 5, the property damage of police handcuffs, I sentence you to a term of imprisonment of 4 months of which 2 months is to be served cumulatively on the sentence on count 4.

That makes a total effective sentence of 3 years and 6 months, backdated and deemed to have commenced on 10 February 2026.

I have reviewed that sentence, including the allowances made for concurrency and cumulation, and I do not consider that any further adjustments should be allowed on application of the principle of totality.

I have decided to fix a non-parole period, and I fix a non-parole period of 1 year and 10 months, also to date from 10 February 2026.

That non-parole period happens to be about 52 percent of the head sentence. With respect to s 53AA(3) of the *Sentencing Act 1995*, I fixed the non-parole period at 1 year and 10 months because I consider that is the minimum term which justice requires you to serve having regard to all of the circumstances of the offending and of you, the offender.

It is obviously though a decision for the Parole Board as to whether, and if so when, parole may be granted.

HIS HONOUR: Thank you. Is there anything further from defence, Mr Sultan?

MR SULTAN: Nothing further, your Honour.

HIS HONOUR: Ms Houston?

MS HOUSTON: Nothing further, your Honour.

HIS HONOUR: Yes, thank you.

Adjourn the court, please.
