

General Purpose Standing Committee No 1

Budget Estimates 2005 - 2006

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How to contact the committee

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Terms of Reference

1. That the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2005-2006 presenting the amounts to be appropriated from the Consolidated Fund be referred to the General Purpose Standing Committees for inquiry and report.
2. That the committees consider the Budget Estimates in accordance with the allocation of portfolios to the committees.
3. For the purposes of this inquiry any member of the House may attend a meeting of a committee in relation to the Budget Estimates and question witnesses, participate in the deliberations of the committee at such meeting and make a dissenting statement relating to the Budget Estimates, but may not vote or be counted for the purpose of any quorum.
4. The committees must hear evidence on the Budget Estimates in public.
5. Not more than two committees are to hear evidence on the Budget Estimates simultaneously.
6. When a committee hears evidence on the Budget Estimates, the Chair is to call on items of expenditure in the order decided on and declare the proposed expenditure open for examination.
7. The committees may ask for explanations from Ministers in the House, or officers of departments, statutory bodies or corporations, relating to the items of proposed expenditure.
8. The report of a committee on the Budget Estimates may propose the further consideration of any items.
9. That a daily Hansard record of the hearings of a committee on the Budget Estimates be published as soon as practicable after each day's proceedings.
10. That the Leader of the Government is to provide to each Committee, by Friday 1 July 2005, a schedule outlining the attendance of relevant ministers to appear before each committee, for the committee's consideration.
11. A committee must not meet to hear evidence on any day on which the House sits except during any adjournment for meal breaks or after the adjournment of the House.
12. The committees may hold supplementary hearings as required.
13. The committees present a final report to the House by the last sitting day of the second sitting week in 2006—put and passed.

(Minutes of Proceedings No 103, 6 May 2005, Item 7)

Committee Membership

Rev the Hon Fred Nile MLC	Christian Democratic Party	<i>Chair</i>
The Hon Robyn Parker MLC	Liberal Party	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
The Hon Catherine Cusack MLC	Liberal Party	
The Hon Greg Donnelly MLC	Australian Labor Party	
The Hon Peter Primrose MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Ms Lee Rhiannon MLC	The Greens	
The Hon Ian West MLC	Australian Labor Party	

Other Members who attended the hearings

The Hon Jan Burnswoods MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon Tony Catanzariti MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon Amanda Fazio MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon Michael Gallacher MLC	Liberal Party
The Hon Kayee Griffin MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon Don Harwin MLC	Liberal Party
The Hon Charlie Lynn MLC	Liberal Party
Rev the Hon Dr Gordon Moyes MLC¹	Christian Democratic Party
The Hon Eddie Obeid MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon Melinda Pavey MLC	The Nationals
The Hon Greg Pearce MLC	Liberal Party
The Hon Christine Robertson MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon John Ryan MLC	Liberal Party
The Hon Henry Tsang MLC	Australian Labor Party

¹ The Revd Hon Dr Gordon Moyes MLC resigned as Chair and Member of GPSC No.1 on 8 December 2005.

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Chair's Foreword

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1 has examined the Budget Estimates for 2005-2006 for the portfolio areas of:

- Premier
- Treasury
- Citizenship
- Education and Training
- Special Minister of State
- Commerce
- Industrial Relations
- Finance
- Infrastructure
- Hunter
- Western Sydney
- Fair Trading
- The Legislature

The Committee expresses its appreciation to the Ministers and officers of the departments and organisations who appeared before it.

Revd the Hon Fred Nile MLC
Chair

Chapter 1 Introduction

Referral of the 2005-2006 Budget Estimates

- 1.1 On 6 June 2005, the Legislative Council resolved that the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2005-2006 presenting the amounts to be appropriated from the Consolidated Fund be referred to the General Purpose Standing Committees (GPSCs) for inquiry and report.²
- 1.2 Each Committee was required to examine the Budget Estimates for their relevant portfolios and report to the House by the last sitting day of the second sitting week in 2006.³

GPSC 1 Portfolio responsibilities

- 1.3 On 14 September 2005, the Legislative Council resolved that the resolution appointing five General Purpose Standing Committees be amended to reflect changes to Government Ministers' portfolio responsibilities.⁴
- 1.4 The following portfolio responsibilities were allocated to GPSC 1:
- Premier
 - Treasury
 - Citizenship
 - Education and Training
 - Special Minister of State
 - Commerce
 - Industrial Relations
 - Finance
 - Infrastructure
 - Hunter
 - Western Sydney
 - Fair Trading
 - The Legislature

² Minutes of Proceedings No 103, 6 May 2005, Item 7, para 1

³ Minutes of Proceedings No 103, 6 May 2005, Item 7, paras 2 & 13

⁴ Minutes of Proceedings No 114, 14 September 2005, Item 5

Public hearings

- 1.5 General Purpose Standing Committee No 1 examined the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2005-2006 for its portfolios at a series of public hearings held on the following dates:
- Thursday, 15 September 2005 – Special Minister of State, Commerce and Industrial Relations
 - Friday, 16 September 2005 – Fair Trading and Western Sydney
 - Friday, 16 September 2005 – The Legislature
 - Tuesday, 20 September 2005 – Premier, Treasury and Citizenship
 - Wednesday, 21 September 2005 – Education and Training
 - Wednesday, 21 September 2005 – Finance, Infrastructure and Hunter
- 1.6 Chapter 2 of this report provides a brief summary of some of the key issues raised during the hearings.

Transcripts

- 1.7 The full transcript of evidence taken at the 2005-2006 Budget Estimates hearings can be found at the Committee's web page at www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc1. Hard copies of the transcripts can be obtained by contacting the Secretariat of the General Purpose Standing Committees on 02 9230 3544.

Questions on notice

- 1.8 During the 2005-2006 Budget Estimates hearings, Ministers and departmental officials took a number of questions on notice. Copies of the questions and answers can be found on the web page or obtained from the Secretariat.
- 1.9 In addition, Committee Members lodged written questions on notice by placing questions on the Notice Paper on days that the House sat.

Chapter 2 Summary of issues

This chapter provides a summary by portfolio of the key issues raised as part of the General Purpose Standing Committee No 1 Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2005-2006. For further details see the Hansard record of the hearings, available on the Committee's web page at www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc1.

Special Minister of State, Commerce and Industrial Relations

2.1 The Committee conducted a public hearing examining the portfolios of Special Minister of State, Commerce and Industrial Relations on Thursday, 15 September 2005. The following issues were examined:

- the Government's procurement policy for open source software
- the number of displaced employees within WorkCover
- the supply of broadband internet technology to Government agencies
- management of the Government's motor vehicle fleet
- on-line business licensing in NSW
- the impact of proposed federal industrial relations changes.

Fair Trading and Western Sydney

2.2 The Committee conducted a public hearing examining the portfolios of Fair Trading and Western Sydney on Friday, 16 September 2005. The following issues were examined in relation to the Fair Trading portfolio:

- the operation of the Department of Fair Trading's call centre
- the interest rate paid to tenants who have lodged rental bonds with the Rental Bond Board
- the interest received by the Rental Bond Board on rental bond payments kept in its account
- funding for the Department of Fair Trading in the 2005-2006 Budget
- funding for a pilot advocacy service for building service consumers.

2.3 The following issues were examined in relation to the Western Sydney portfolio:

- the staffing and role of the Office of the Minister for Western Sydney
- the staging of the Western Sydney Awards gala presentation dinner and other award programs.

The Legislature

- 2.4 The Committee conducted a public hearing examining the portfolio of The Legislature on Friday, 16 September 2005. The following issues were examined:
- the decision not to establish a Library Committee and House Committee during the 53rd Parliament
 - the provision of food and beverage services to Members and staff
 - the allocation of funding to Building Services in the 2005-2006 Budget
 - water saving initiatives at Parliament House.

Premier, Treasury and Citizenship

- 2.5 The Committee conducted a public hearing examining the portfolios of Premier, Treasury and Citizenship on Tuesday, 20 September 2005. The following issues were examined:
- the projected Budget outcome for 2005-2006
 - the Government's environmental priorities
 - the increase in funding for the Department of the Premier in 2005-2006
 - the Government's preparedness for a possible terrorist attack in NSW
 - changes to the superannuation scheme for new Members of Parliament
 - the policy framework for the management of displaced employees in the New South Wales public sector
 - the operation and review of the *Freedom of Information Act 1989*.

Education and Training

- 2.6 The Committee conducted a public hearing examining the portfolios of Education and Training on Wednesday, 21 September 2005. The following issues were examined in relation to the Education portfolio:
- the increase in teacher salary costs in the 2005-2006 financial year
 - the total number of school teachers in NSW
 - the promotion of teachers based on local selection
 - textbook subsidies for non-government schools
 - the viability of small schools, notably in regional and remote parts of the State
 - funding for school maintenance in the 2005-2006 Budget and the formula used for allocating maintenance funds
 - the installation of air conditioning in NSW classrooms
 - the installation of fencing to protect NSW schools

- the adoption by all schools of mandatory guidelines on healthy eating
- changes to the education program for children with special needs.

2.7 The following issues were examined in relation to the Training portfolio:

- the 2005-2006 Budget allocation for community colleges, and the Government's commitment to adult education
- the strategies and programs of TAFE NSW to identify and meet the skills shortage in NSW
- Commonwealth Government funding for training places.

Finance, Infrastructure and the Hunter

2.8 The Committee conducted a public hearing examining the portfolios of Finance, Infrastructure and the Hunter on Wednesday, 21 September 2005. The following issues were examined:

- the operation of the new Ministry of Finance, including its funding, staffing and infrastructure
- the budgetary position of the NSW Government, including the financial impact of the abolition of the Vendor Duty on property sales, GST funding from the Commonwealth Government, other NSW Government tax revenue and spending on infrastructure in 2005-2006
- the assets, liabilities and investment strategy of NSW Treasury Corporation (T Corp)
- the detection of fraud and tax evasion by the Office of State Revenue
- the recovery of uncollected fines by the State Debt Recovery Office
- the role of the Minister for the Hunter.

Appendix 1 Witnesses

1. Special Minister of State, Commerce and Industrial Relations (15 September 2005)

Name	Position and Organisation
The Hon John Della Bosca MLC	Former Special Minister of State, Minister for Commerce, Minister for Industrial Relations
Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter	Director General, Department of Commerce
Ms Pat Manser	Deputy Director General, Department of Commerce
Mr Jon Blackwell	Chief Executive Officer, WorkCover NSW
Mr John Watson	General Manager, Occupational Health and Safety, WorkCover NSW
Mr David Bowen	General Manager, Motor Accidents Authority NSW

2. Fair Trading and Western Sydney (16 September 2005)

Name	Position and Organisation
The Hon Dianne Beamer MP	Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Western Sydney
Mr Michael Silk	Executive Director, Department of Fair Trading
Mr David O'Connor	Commissioner, Department of Fair Trading
Mr Rod Stowe	Assistant Commissioner, Policy and Strategy, Department of Fair Trading
Mr David Catt	Acting Assistant Commissioner, Operations, Department of Fair Trading
Ms Jan Moxon	Manager, Office of Western Sydney
Mr Rob Lennon	Western Sydney Regional Co-ordinator, Office of Western Sydney

3. The Legislature (16 September 2005)

Name	Position and Organisation
The Hon Dr Meredith Burgmann MLC	President of the Legislative Council of NSW
Mr John Evans	Clerk of the Parliaments, Parliament of New South Wales
Mr Greg McGill	Financial Controller, Parliament of New South Wales
Mr Ali Shariat	Manager, Information Technology Services, Parliament of New South Wales

4. Premier, Treasury and Citizenship (20 September 2005)

Name	Position and Organisation
The Hon Morris Iemma MP	Premier and Minister for Citizenship and former Treasurer
Dr Col Gellatly	Director General, Premier's Department
Mr Roger Wilkins	Director General, Cabinet Office
Mr John Pierce	Secretary, NSW Treasury

5. Education and Training (21 September 2005)

Name	Position and Organisation
The Hon Carmel Tebbutt MP	Minister for Education and Training
Mr Andrew Cappie Wood	Director General, Department of Education and Training and Managing Director, TAFE NSW
Mr Martin Bowles	Deputy Director General, Corporate Services, Department of Education and Training
Mr Ken Dixon	General Manager, Finance and Administration, Department of Education and Training

6. Finance, Infrastructure and the Hunter (21 September 2005)

Name	Position and Organisation
The Hon Michael Costa MLC	Former Minister for Finance, Infrastructure and the Hunter
Mr John Pierce	Secretary, NSW Treasury
Mr Peter Achterstraat	Executive Director, Office of State Revenue

Appendix 2 Minutes of proceedings

Minutes No 45

Thursday, 15 September 2005

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1

At Parliament House at 7.45 pm, Room 814/815

1. Members Present

Revd Dr Gordon Moyes (Chair)

Mr Michael Gallacher (Cusack)

Mr Eddie Obeid (Donnelly)

Mr Peter Primrose

Ms Lee Rhiannon

Mr John Ryan (Parker)

Mr Ian West

2. Substitute arrangements

The Chair advised that Mr Obeid would be substituting for Mr Donnelly, Mr Gallacher would be substituting for Ms Cusack and Mr Ryan would be substituting for Ms Parker for the purposes of this meeting.

3. Budget Estimates 2005-2006 - Deliberative Meeting

Correspondence received

The Chair tabled the following items of correspondence received:

- Letter from the Hon John Della Bosca MLC, forwarding the finalised schedule of Ministers' attendance for the 2005-2006 Budget Estimates hearings (received 30 August 2005).
- Letter from the Hon John Della Bosca MLC, advising of changes to the finalised schedule of Ministers' attendance for the 2005-2006 Budget Estimates hearings (received 14 September 2005)

Conduct of Hearing

Resolved on motion of Mr Gallacher: That

- Portfolios would be examined in the order of Commerce, Industrial Relations and Special Minister of State
- Members would be allocated 10 minutes for questioning, alternating between Government, Opposition and cross-bench Members
- Responses to questions on notice be required within 21 days.

4. Budget Estimates 2005-2006 - Public Hearing

The Chair made a statement to Members regarding the broadcasting of proceedings.

The Hon John Della Bosca MLC, Special Minister of State, Commerce and Industrial Relations, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisers:

NSW Department of Commerce

Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter, Director General
Ms Pat Manser, Deputy Director General

WorkCover NSW

Mr Jon Blackwell, Chief Executive Officer
Mr John Watson, General Manager, Occupational Health and Safety

Motor Accidents Authority NSW

Mr David Bowen, General Manager

Office of Industrial Relations

Ms Pat Manser, Deputy Director General

The public and media were admitted.

The Chair made a statement regarding certain procedural matters during hearings on budget estimates.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Special Minister of State, Commerce and Industrial Relations open for examination.

The Minister and his advisers answered questions from Members of the Committee.

Examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Special Minister of State, Commerce and Industrial Relations concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

5. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 10.00 pm until 11.15 am on Friday, 16 September 2005 in the Jubilee Room.

Susan Want

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No 46

Friday, 16 September 2005

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1

At Parliament House at 11.25 am, Jubilee Room

1. Members Present

Rev Dr Gordon Moyes (Chair)
Mr Greg Donnelly
Mr John Ryan (Ms Cusack)
Mr Charlie Lynn (Ms Parker)
Ms Kayee Griffin (Mr Primrose)
Mr Ian West

2. Substitute arrangements

The Chair advised that Mr Ryan would be substituting for Ms Cusack, Mr Lynn would be substituting for Ms Parker and Ms Griffin would be substituting for Mr Primrose for the purposes of this meeting.

3. Budget Estimates 2005-2006 - Public Hearing

The Chair made a statement to Members regarding the broadcasting of proceedings.

The Hon Diane Beamer MP, Minister for Fair Trading and Western Sydney, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisers:

Department of Fair Trading

Mr David O'Connor, Commissioner

Mr Michael Silk, Executive Director

Mr Rod Stowe, Assistant Commissioner, Policy and Strategy

Mr Steve Griffin, Acting General Manager, Home Building Service

Mr David Catt, Acting Assistant Commissioner, Operations

Office of Western Sydney

Ms Jane Moxon, Manager

Mr Rob Lennon, Western Sydney Regional Co-ordinator

The public and media were admitted.

The Chair made a statement regarding certain procedural matters during hearings on budget estimates.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Fair Trading and Western Sydney open for examination.

The Minister and her advisers answered questions from Members of the Committee.

The Minister tendered the following documents:

- Tenants Advice and Advocacy Program (TAAP) 2005-2006 - List of funded organisations
- Independent Commission Against Corruption Report on investigation into planning decisions relating to the Orange Grove Centre

Mr Rod Stowe tendered the following document:

- Office of Fair Trading Tenants Advice and Advocacy Program (Program Guidelines)

Mr David O'Connor tendered the following document:

- Office of Fair Trading Continuing Professional Development Program: Information for builders and swimming pool builders.

Examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Fair Trading and Western Sydney concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

4. Budget Estimates 2005-2006 – Deliberative Meeting

Resolved on motion of Mr Ryan: That under section 4 of the *Parliamentary Papers (Supplementary Provisions) Act 1975* and under the Authority of Standing Order 223(1), the Committee authorises the Clerk of the Committee to publish the documents accepted by the Committee during the hearing.

5. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 1.35 pm until 1.45 pm on Friday, 16 September 2005 in the Jubilee Room.

Tanya Bosch

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No 47

Friday, 16 September 2005

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1

At Parliament House at 2.00 pm, Jubilee Room

1. Members Present

Rev Dr Gordon Moyes (Chair)
Mr Ian West
Mr Don Harwin (Cusack)
Ms Kayee Griffin (Primrose)
Ms Christine Robertson (Donnelly)

2. Substitute arrangements

The Chair advised that Ms Robertson would be substituting for Mr Donnelly, Mr Harwin would be substituting for Ms Cusack and Ms Griffin would be substituting for Mr Primrose for the purposes of this meeting.

3. Budget Estimates 2005-2006 - Public Hearing

The Hon Dr Meredith Burgmann MLC, President of the Legislative Council, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisers:

Legislative Council

Mr John Evans, Clerk of the Parliaments
Mr Greg McGill, Financial Controller
Mr Warren Cahill, Clerk Assistant
Mr David Blunt, Clerk Assistant
Mr Ali Shariat, Manager, Information Technology Services
Mr Morgan Andrews, Manager, Security Services
Ms Yvette Andrews, Chief of Staff to the President

The public and media were admitted.

The Chair made a statement regarding certain procedural matters during hearings on budget estimates.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio area of The Legislature open for examination.

The President made a brief opening statement.

The President, Mr Evans, Mr McGill, and Mr Shariat answered questions from Members of the Committee.

The Chair advised the witnesses that the Committee had resolved to allow 35 days for the return of answers to questions taken on notice during the hearing.

Examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio area of The Legislature concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

4. Budget Estimates 2005-2006 – Deliberative Meeting

Resolved on motion of Mr West: That the Committee conclude its examination of the portfolio area of The Legislature.

5. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 2.35 pm until 5.15 pm on Tuesday, 20 September 2005 in Room 814/815.

John Young

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No 48

Tuesday, 20 September 2005

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1

At Parliament House at 5.25 pm, Room 814/815

1. Members Present

Rev Dr Gordon Moyes (Chair)

Ms Amanda Fazio (Donnelly)

Mr Greg Pearce (Cusack)

Ms Melinda Pavey (Parker)

Mr Peter Primrose

Ms Lee Rhiannon

Mr Ian West

2. Substitute arrangements

The Chair advised that Ms Fazio would be substituting for Mr Donnelly, Mr Pearce would be substituting for Ms Cusack and Ms Pavey would be substituting for Ms Parker for the purposes of this meeting.

3. Budget Estimates 2005-2006 - Deliberative Meeting

Conduct of Hearing

The Chair advised that Members would be allocated 20 minutes for questioning, alternating between Government, Opposition and cross-bench Members.

The Chair also confirmed that during any division in the Legislative Assembly departmental officers would continue to be questioned.

The Chair also advised that the time requested for return of answers to questions taken on notice would be 14 days and no more than 35 days.

4. Budget Estimates 2005-2006 - Public Hearing

The Chair made a statement to Members regarding the broadcasting of proceedings.

The Hon Morris Iemma MP, Premier, Minister for Treasury and Citizenship, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisers:

Premier's Department

Dr Col Gellatly, Director

The Cabinet Office

Mr Roger Wilkins, Director General

NSW Treasury

Mr John Pierce, Secretary

The public and media were admitted.

The Chair made a statement regarding certain procedural matters during hearings on budget estimates.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Premier, Treasury and Citizenship open for examination.

The Premier and his advisers answered questions from Members of the Committee.

Examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Premier, Treasury and Citizenship concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

5. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 7.30 pm until 5.15 pm on Wednesday, 21 September 2005 in Room 814/815.

Susan Want

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No 49

Wednesday, 21 September 2005

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1

At Parliament House at 5.25 pm, Room 814/815

1. Members Present

Rev Dr Gordon Moyes (Chair)

Ms Jan Burnswoods (Donnelly)

Ms Catherine Cusack

Ms Robyn Parker

Mr Tony Catanzariti (Primrose)

Ms Lee Rhiannon

Mr Ian West

2. Substitute arrangements

The Chair advised that Ms Burnswoods would be substituting for Mr Donnelly and Mr Catanzariti would be substituting for Mr Primrose for the purposes of this meeting.

3. Budget Estimates 2005-2006 - Deliberative Meeting***Conduct of hearing***

Resolved on motion of Ms Parker: That witnesses be requested to provide answers to questions taken on notice during the hearing within 14 days if possible, and where not possible, answers should be provided within 35 days.

The Chair advised that Members would be allocated 20 minutes for questioning, alternating between Government, Opposition and cross-bench Members.

4. Budget Estimates 2005-2006 - Public Hearing

The Chair made a statement to Members regarding the broadcasting of proceedings.

The Hon Carmel Tebbutt MP, Minister for Education and Training, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisers:

Department of Education and Training

Mr Andrew Cappie Wood, Director General, Department of Education and Training and Managing Director, TAFE NSW

Mr Martin Bowles, Deputy Director General, Corporate Services

Mr Ken Dixon, General Manager, Finance and Administration

The public and media were admitted.

The Chair made a statement regarding certain procedural matters during hearings on budget estimates.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Education and Training open for examination.

The Minister and her advisers answered questions from Members of the Committee.

Examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Education and Training concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

5. Budget Estimates 2005-2006 – Deliberative Meeting

Supplementary hearings

Ms Rhiannon moved:

- (1) That the Committee hold a further hearing on a date to be determined by the Chair after consulting with Committee Members, to consider matters relating to the Education and Training portfolios.
- (2) That the Minister and staff be invited to attend the hearing for a period of three hours.

Question put.

The committee divided.

Ayes: Ms Rhiannon, Ms Cusack, Ms Parker

Noes: Revd Dr Moyes, Ms Burnswoods, Mr Catanzariti, Mr West.

Question resolved in the negative.

6. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 7.30 pm until 7.45 pm on Wednesday, 21 September 2005 in Room 814/815.

Susan Want

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No 50

Wednesday, 21 September 2005

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1

At Parliament House at 7.55 pm, Room 814/815

1. Members Present

Rev Dr Gordon Moyes (Chair)

Ms Christine Robertson (Donnelly)

Mr Greg Pearce (Cusack)

Ms Robyn Parker

Mr Eddie Obeid (Primrose)

Ms Lee Rhiannon

Mr Henry Tsang (West)

2. Substitute arrangements

The Chair advised that Ms Robertson would be substituting for Mr Donnelly, Mr Pearce would be substituting for Ms Cusack, Mr Obeid would be substituting for Mr Primrose and Mr Tsang would be substituting for Mr West for the purposes of this meeting.

3. Budget Estimates 2005-2006 - Deliberative Meeting

Conduct of Hearing

Resolved on motion of Mr Pearce: That responses to questions on notice be requested within 21 days.

4. Budget Estimates 2005-2006 - Public Hearing

The Chair made a statement to Members regarding the broadcasting of proceedings.

The Hon Michael Costa MLC, Minister for Finance, Infrastructure and the Hunter, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisers:

NSW Treasury

Mr John Pierce, Secretary

Office of State Revenue

Mr Peter Achterstraat, Executive Director

The public and media were admitted.

The Chair made a statement regarding certain procedural matters during hearings on budget estimates.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Finance, Infrastructure and the Hunter open for examination.

The Minister and his advisers answered questions from Members of the Committee.

Examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Finance, Infrastructure and the Hunter concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

5. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 9.45 pm *sine die*.

Stephen Frappell

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No 51

Friday, 14 October 2005

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1

At Parliament House at 9.10 am, Room 1108

1. Members Present

Revd Dr Gordon Moyes (Chair) – from 9.15 am

Ms Robyn Parker

Mr Rick Colless (Cusack)

Mr Greg Donnelly

Ms Kayee Griffin (Primrose)

Ms Lee Rhiannon

Mr Ian West

2. ***

3. Deliberative Meeting

Budget Estimates 2006-2006 – Supplementary hearings

Resolved on motion of Ms Griffin: That no further hearings be held for the Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2005-2006.

Confirmation of Minutes No 44-50

Resolved on motion of Mr West: That Minutes No 44-50 be confirmed.

4. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 11.00 am.

Stephen Frappell

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No 55

Wednesday, 8 March 2006

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1

At Parliament House at 1.05 pm Rm 1153

1. Members Present

Revd Fred Nile (Chair)

Ms Catherine Cusack

Mr Greg Donnelly

Ms Robyn Parker

Mr Peter Primrose

Ms Le Rhiannon

Mr Ian West

2. ***

3. ***

4. **Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2005-2006**

Consideration of Chair's draft report

Resolved on motion of Mr Primrose:

- That the Chair's report be the report of the Committee and be signed by the Chair and presented to the House in accordance with Standing Orders 230 and 231, together with the minutes, answers to questions on notice, transcripts, correspondence and tabled documents.
- That pursuant to the provisions of section 4 of the *Parliamentary Papers (Supplementary Provisions) Act 1975* the Committee authorises the publication of all minutes, answers to questions on notice, correspondence, and tabled documents.
- That the Committee Secretariat be permitted to correct typographical, stylistic and grammatical errors in the report prior to tabling.

5. ***

6. **Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 1.20 pm until a date to be determined.

Stephen Frappell

Clerk to the Committee