

General Purpose Standing Committee No 4

Budget Estimates 2005 - 2006

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House

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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

The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC	The Nationals	<i>Chair</i>
Ms Sylvia Hale MLC	The Greens	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
The Hon Jan Burnswoods MLC	Australian Labor Party	
The Hon David Clarke MLC	Liberal Party	
The Hon Greg Donnelly MLC	Australian Labor Party	
The Hon Kayee Griffin MLC	Australian Labor Party	
The Hon David Oldfield MLC	Independent	

Other Members who attended the hearings

The Hon Amanda Fazio MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon Michael Gallacher MLC	Liberal Party
The Hon Jon Jenkins MLC	Outdoor Recreation 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 Peter Primrose MLC	Australian Labor Party
Ms Lee Rhiannon MLC	The Greens
The Hon Ian West MLC	Australian Labor Party

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Chair's Foreword

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4 has examined the Budget Estimates for 2005-2006 for the portfolio areas of:

- Planning
- Redfern Waterloo
- Science and Medical Research
- Roads
- Housing
- Transport
- State Development.

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

The Hon Jenny Gardiner 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.¹
- 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 2006.²

Extension to the reporting date

- 1.3 On 1 March 2006, the Legislative Council resolved that the reporting date for the GPSC 4 inquiry into the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2005-2006 be extended to Thursday, 6 April 2006.³

GPSC 4 portfolio responsibilities

- 1.4 On 14 September 2005, the Legislative Council resolved that the resolution appointing the five GPSCs be amended to reflect changes to Government Ministers' portfolio responsibilities.⁴
- 1.5 The following portfolio responsibilities were allocated to GPSC 4:
- Planning
 - Redfern Waterloo
 - Science and Medical Research
 - Roads
 - Housing
 - Transport
 - State Development.

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

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

³ Minutes of Proceedings No 136, 1 March 2006, Item 5

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

Public hearings

- 1.6** General Purpose Standing Committee No 4 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:
- Tuesday, 20 September 2005 – Transport and State Development
 - Tuesday, 20 September 2005 – Roads
 - Wednesday, 21 September 2005 – Planning, Redfern Waterloo, Science and Medical Research
 - Friday, 23 September 2005 – Housing
 - Wednesday, 22 February 2006 – Planning, Redfern Waterloo (supplementary hearing)
 - Thursday, 23 February 2006 – Transport (supplementary hearing)
 - Wednesday, 15 March 2006 – Roads (supplementary hearing)
 - Wednesday, 15 March 2006 – Housing and Transport (Sydney Ferries) (supplementary hearing).
- 1.7** Chapter 2 of this report provides a brief summary of some of the key issues raised during the hearings.

Transcripts

- 1.8** 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/gpsc4. 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

- 1.9** 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.
- 1.10** 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 4 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/gpsc4.

Transport and State Development

2.1 The Committee conducted a public hearing examining the portfolios of Transport and State Development on Tuesday, 20 September 2005. The following issues were examined:

- the reliability and patronage of bus services on the Liverpool to Parramatta Transitway
- potential risks associated with cleaning products used on Sydney Buses
- the investigation carried out by the Office of Transport Safety Investigations into the crash of the ferry 'The Collaroy', together with the conduct of other investigations
- the provision of rail services on the Newcastle line, and proposals for alternative services
- the performance of the CityRail network following the introduction of the new CityRail timetable on 4 September 2005.

Supplementary hearings

2.2 The Committee conducted a supplementary hearing examining the portfolio of Transport on Thursday, 23 February 2006. The following issues were examined:

- speed restrictions on CountryLink rail services and disruptions to passengers attempting to make connecting services as a result
- the replacement of XPT power car axles and the staged return to service of the XPT fleet following the discovery of cracks in a number of axles on the power cars
- the progressive upgrading of stations on the CityRail network under the Easy Access Program
- security on trains, including assault rates and the role of transit officers
- estimates of the number of passengers travelling without a ticket
- the performance of the CityRail network following the introduction of the new CityRail timetable on 4 September 2005
- the reliability and patronage of bus services on the Liverpool to Parramatta Transitway
- data on the reliability of metropolitan Sydney bus services and the implementation of systems to monitor on-time running

- the delivery of the TCard project, which is designed to deliver a single payment card for travel on all trains, buses and ferries, as well as light rail and monorail in Sydney
- the finalisation of Sydney regional bus contracts by the Ministry of Transport
- CCTV monitoring in taxi cabs in Sydney and extra security to be provided at taxi ranks.

2.3 The Committee conducted a further supplementary hearing examining the portfolio of Transport (Sydney Ferries) on Wednesday, 15 March 2006. The following issues were examined:

- the recent appointment of Rear Admiral Oxenbould as acting CEO of Sydney Ferries
- improving the rate of availability of the 31 vessels in the Sydney Ferries fleet
- recent service cancellations and the costs of chartering vessels to cover regular Sydney Ferries services
- the Sydney Ferries shipyard improvement program
- the lack of a Sydney Ferries fleet replacement strategy
- the number of employees with Sydney Ferries, and the status of ongoing enterprise agreement negotiations.

Roads

2.4 The Committee conducted a public hearing examining the portfolio of Roads on Tuesday, 20 September 2005. The following issues were examined:

- the Austlink funding agreement between the Federal and NSW Governments, and the funding available from the Federal Government for major roads such as the Pacific Highway and F3 freeway
- the progress of various road infrastructure projects such as the upgrade of the Pacific Highway, the upgrade of the Princes Highway, the Ballina by-pass, the widening of the Spit Bridge and the construction of the M4 East link
- the management and regulation of road tunnels by the Roads and Traffic Authority and the health of drivers using tunnels such as the M5 East
- the impact of the recent fuel price increases on traffic volumes in Sydney
- the impact of the cross-city tunnel on other non-tunnel users in Sydney
- the operation of the E-tag system on Sydney tollways, including use of the E-tags by motorcycles
- the effectiveness of the 40km/h zones around schools, together with the introduction of flashing lights to highlight the zones to motorists.

Supplementary hearing

- 2.5** The Committee conducted a supplementary hearing examining the portfolio of Roads on Wednesday, 15 March 2006. The following issues were examined:
- estimated completion dates for a number of major development projects
 - the progress of various road infrastructure projects, including the upgrade of the Pacific Highway
 - the management and regulation of road tunnels by the Roads and Traffic Authority and the health of drivers using the M5 East tunnel
 - recent safety improvements for heavy vehicles using the roads
 - the future use of tolls to fund road upgrade projects.

Planning, Redfern Waterloo, Science and Medical Research

- 2.6** The Committee conducted a public hearing examining the portfolios of Planning, Redfern Waterloo, Science and Medical Research on Wednesday, 21 September 2005. The following issues were examined in relation to the Planning portfolio:
- the status of the Metropolitan Strategy, the Freight Strategy and the Lower Hunter Regional Strategy
 - the release of the report of the Commission of Inquiry into Port Botany
 - the encroachment of urban development at the outskirts of Sydney onto prime agricultural land
 - the impact of the M5 East Tunnel on air quality, and its impact on local residents.
- 2.7** The following issues were examined in relation to the Redfern Waterloo portfolio:
- the working relationship between the Minister for Redfern Waterloo, the Redfern Waterloo Authority, the Aboriginal Housing Corporation and the broader aboriginal community
 - the redevelopment of 'the Block' in Redfern, and negotiations between the Redfern Waterloo Authority and the Aboriginal Housing Corporation
 - the future of the Eveleigh rail yards.
- 2.8** The following issues were examined in relation to the Science and Medical Research portfolio:
- participation rates by age bracket of women in the BreastScreen Program, run under the auspices of the Cancer Institute
 - the rate of smoking in the general population and campaigns to discourage smoking.

Supplementary hearing

2.9 The Committee conducted a supplementary hearing examining the portfolios of Planning and Redfern Waterloo on Wednesday, 22 February 2006. The following issues were examined in relation to the Planning portfolio:

- the Metropolitan Strategy, including the financial position of the Sydney Region Development Fund, funding for new rail corridors in the south-west and north-west of Sydney and affordable housing initiatives
- the abolition of the Metropolitan Strategy Reference Panel and alternative mechanisms for consultation on the Metropolitan Strategy
- assessment of Local Environmental Plans by the Department of Planning
- development of the Shaping the Central Coast Strategy, expected to be available by June 2006
- emissions from the entry and exit portals of the M5 East tunnel
- progress on the redevelopment of the Warnervale train station
- progress on the CityLink Project at Gosford.

2.10 The following issues were examined in relation to the Redfern Waterloo portfolio:

- the sale of heritage listed buildings, including the Eveleigh rail yards
- the working relationship between the Minister for Redfern Waterloo, the Redfern Waterloo Authority, the Aboriginal Housing Corporation and the broader aboriginal community
- development and investment in housing and commercial buildings under the draft Redfern Waterloo Built Environment Plan (Stage 1)
- the availability of affordable housing in the Redfern Waterloo area
- the future sale of the site of the former Redfern Public School.

Housing

2.11 The Committee conducted a public hearing examining the portfolio of Housing on Friday, 23 September 2005. The following issues were examined:

- maintenance of properties owned by the Department of Housing and new systems for undertaking maintenance work
- acquisition and disposal of various properties owned by the Department of Housing
- the new policy to charge public housing tenants water rates according to their water usage
- the new policy to increase rent for public housing tenants to 30 per cent of their gross income
- asbestos contamination in properties owned by the Department of Housing.

Supplementary hearing

2.12 The Committee conducted a supplementary hearing examining the portfolio of Housing on Wednesday, 15 March 2006. The following issues were examined:

- the sale of public housing to existing public housing tenants as part of the Department of Housing's policy to encourage tenants to enter into home ownership
- the trial of acceptable behaviour agreements with public housing tenants in Newcastle and Wagga Wagga
- the availability of public housing in regional and rural areas of the state such as Orange and Dubbo
- research by the Association to Resource Co-operative Housing into co-operative housing models for NSW
- recent cases where elderly public housing tenants have passed away but have lain undetected for several weeks or months.

Appendix 1 Witnesses

1. Transport and State Development (20 September 2005)

Name	Position and Organisation
The Hon John Watkins MP	Minister for Transport and State Development
Mr John Lee	Director General, Ministry of Transport
Mr Vince Graham	Chief Executive Officer, RailCorp
Mr Roger Wilson	Acting Chief Executive Officer, State Transit Authority of NSW
Ms Sue Sinclair	Chief Executive Officer, Sydney Ferries Corporation
Mr Loftus Harris	Director General, Department of State and Regional Development

2. Roads (20 September 2005)

Name	Position and Organisation
The Hon Joseph Tripodi MP	Minister for Roads
Mr Paul Forward	Chief Executive, Roads and Traffic Authority

3. Planning, Redfern Waterloo, Science and Medical Research (21 September 2005)

Name	Position and Organisation
The Hon Frank Sartor MP	Minister for Planning, Redfern Waterloo, Science and Medical Research
Ms Jennifer Westacott	Director General, Department of Planning
Mr Sam Haddad	Deputy Director General, Department of Planning
Mr Peter Lucas	Chief Financial Officer, Department of Planning
Mr Robert Domm	Chief Executive Officer, Redfern Waterloo Authority
Professor Jim Bishop	Chief Executive Officer, Cancer Institute of NSW

4. Housing (23 September 2005)

Name	Position and Organisation
The Hon Cherie Burton MP	Minister for Housing
Mr Terry Barnes	Director General, Department of Housing
Mr Mike Allen	Deputy Director General, Operations, Department of Housing
Mr Ben Keneally	Executive Director, Policy Strategy and Finance, Department of Housing

5. Planning, Redfern Waterloo – Supplementary hearing (22 February 2006)

Name	Position and Organisation
Mr Sam Haddad	Director General, Department of Planning
Ms Chris Wilson	Acting Executive Director, Sustainable Development Assessments and Approvals, Department of Planning
Mr Peter Lucas	Chief Financial Officer, Department of Planning
Mr Reece McDougall	Director, NSW Heritage Office
Mr Robert Domm	Chief Executive Officer, Redfern Waterloo Authority

6. Transport – Supplementary hearing (23 February 2006)

Name	Position and Organisation
Mr Vince Graham	Chief Executive Officer, RailCorp
Mr Jim Glasson	Director General, Ministry of Transport
Mr Roger Wilson	Acting Chief Executive Officer, State Transit Authority of New South Wales

7. Roads – Supplementary hearing (15 March 2006)

Name	Position and Organisation
Mr Mike Hannon	Acting Chief Executive, Roads and Traffic Authority
Mr Brian Watters	Acting Director, Road Network Infrastructure, Roads and Traffic Authority
Mr Michael Bushby	Director, Road Safety, Licensing and Vehicle Management, Roads and Traffic Authority
Mr Chris Ford	Director, Traffic and Transport, Roads and Traffic Authority
Mr Les Wielinga	Director, Motorways, Roads and Traffic Authority

8. Housing and Transport (Sydney Ferries) – Supplementary hearing (15 March 2006)

Name	Position and Organisation
Mr Mike Allen	Director General, Department of Housing
Mr Ben Keneally	Executive Director, Policy Strategy and Finance, Department of Housing
Rear Admiral Chris Oxenbould	Acting CEO, Sydney Ferries
Ms Wendy Hughes	Chief Financial Officer, Sydney Ferries

Appendix 2 Minutes of proceedings

Minutes No 67

Tuesday, 20 September 2005

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4

At Parliament House at 5.15 pm, Jubilee Room

1. **Members Present**

Ms Jenny Gardiner (Chair)

Ms Sylvia Hale

Ms Jan Burnswoods

Mr Greg Donnelly

Mr Michael Gallacher (Clarke)

Ms Kayee Griffin

Mr David Oldfield

2. **Substitute arrangements**

The Chair advised that Mr Gallacher would be substituting for Mr Clarke for the purposes of this meeting.

3. **Budget Estimates 2005-2006 - Deliberative Meeting**

Correspondence

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)

4. **Budget Estimates 2005-2006 – Public Hearing**

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

The Hon John Watkins MP, Minister for Transport and State Development, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisers:

Ministry of Transport

Mr John Lee, Director General

State Rail Authority of NSW

Mr Vince Graham, Chief Executive Officer, RailCorp

State Transit Authority of NSW

Mr Roger Wilson, Acting Chief Executive Officer

Sydney Ferries Corporation

Ms Sue Sinclair, Chief Executive Officer

Department of State and Regional Development

Mr Loftus Harris, 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 Transport and State Development open for examination.

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

Examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Transport and State Development concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

5. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 7.37 pm until 7.45 pm on Tuesday 20 September 2005 in the Jubilee Room.

Tanya Bosch

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No 68

Tuesday, 20 September 2005

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4

At Parliament House at 7.50 pm, Jubilee Room

1. Members Present

Ms Jenny Gardiner (Chair)

Ms Lee Rhiannon (Hale)

Mr Ian West (Burnswoods)

Ms Amanda Fazio (Donnelly)

Mr Don Harwin (Clarke)

Mr Peter Primrose (Griffin)

Mr David Oldfield

Mr Jon Jenkins (participating member)

2. Substitute arrangements

The Chair advised that Mr West would be substituting for Ms Burnswoods, Ms Fazio would be substituting for Mr Donnelly, Mr Primrose would be substituting for Ms Griffin, Mr Harwin would be substituting for Mr Clarke and Ms Rhiannon would be substituting for Ms Hale for the purposes of this meeting.

3. Budget Estimates 2005-2006 - Deliberative Meeting

Conduct of Hearing

Mr Harwin moved: That the Committee request the return of answers to questions taken on notice during the hearing within 14 days from the hearing.

Question put.

The Committee divided.

Ayes: Mr Harwin, Ms Gardiner

Noes: Mr Primrose, Mr West, Ms Fazio

Question resolved in the negative.

4. Budget Estimates 2005-2006 - Public Hearing

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

The Hon Joseph Tripodi MP, Minister for Roads, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisers:

Roads and Traffic Authority

Mr Paul Forward, Chief Executive

Mr Brett Skinner, Director, Finance

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 Roads open for examination.

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

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

5. Budget Estimates 2005-2006 - Deliberative

Supplementary hearings

Mr Harwin moved: That the Committee conduct a further hearing on a date to be determined by the Chair after consulting with Committee members, with the Minister, and/or the Chief Executive and other officers of the RTA.

Ms Fazio moved that the question be amended: To omit all words after 'Committee' and insert: 'postpone consideration of a further hearing until receipt of answers to questions taken on notice at today's hearing.'

Amendment put.

The Committee divided.

Ayes: Mr Primrose, Mr West, Ms Fazio

Noes: Ms Gardiner, Mr Harwin, Mr Oldfield, Ms Rhiannon

Amendment resolved in the negative.

Original question put.

The Committee divided.

Ayes: Ms Gardiner, Mr Harwin, Mr Oldfield, Ms Rhiannon

Noes: Mr Primrose, Mr West, Ms Fazio

Question resolved in the affirmative.

6. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 10:05pm until 1.00pm on Wednesday, 21 September 2005.

Stephen Frappell

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No 70

Wednesday, 21 September 2005

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4

At Parliament House at 5.20pm, Jubilee Room

1. Members Present

Ms Jenny Gardiner (Chair)

Ms Sylvia Hale

Mr Eddie Obeid (Burnswoods)

Mr Greg Donnelly

Mr Greg Pearce (Clarke)

Ms Kayee Griffin

Mr David Oldfield

2. Substitute arrangements

The Chair advised that Mr Obeid would be substituting for Ms Burnswoods and Mr Pearce would be substituting for Mr Clarke for the purposes of this meeting.

3. Budget Estimates 2005-2006 - Deliberative Meeting

Conduct of Hearing

Resolved on motion of Ms Hale: That the time allowed for return of answers to questions taken on notice be 21 days from the date the answers are forwarded to the Minister's office.

4. Budget Estimates 2005-2006 - Public Hearing

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

The Hon Frank Sartor MP, Minister for Planning, Redfern Waterloo, Science and Medical Research, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisers:

Department of Planning

Ms Jennifer Westacott, Director General
Mr Sam Haddad, Deputy Director General
Mr Peter Lucas, Chief Financial Officer

NSW Heritage Office

Mr Reece McDougall, Director
Ms Susan Macdonald, Assistant Director

Redfern Waterloo Authority

Mr Robert Domm, Chief Executive Officer

Cancer Institute NSW

Professor Jim Bishop, Chief Executive Officer

Ministry of Science and Medical Research

Professor Mick Reid, 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 Planning, Redfern Waterloo, Science and Medical Research open for examination.

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

Examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Planning, Redfern Waterloo, Science and Medical Research concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

5. Budget Estimates 2005-2006 - Deliberative

Supplementary hearings

Resolved on motion of Ms Hale: That the Committee conduct a further hearing on a date to be determined by the Chair after consulting with Committee members, to consider matters relating to the proposed expenditure of the portfolios of Planning and Redfern and Waterloo.

6. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 7.35 pm until 1.45 pm on Friday 23 September 2005 in Room 814/815.

Tanya Bosch

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No 71

Friday 23 September 2005

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4

At Parliament House at 1.55 pm, Room 814/815

1. Members Present

Ms Jenny Gardiner (Chair)

Ms Sylvia Hale

Ms Jan Burnswoods

Mr Ian West (Donnelly)

Mr David Clarke

Mr Peter Primrose (Griffin)

2. Apologies

Ms Rhiannon (Mr Oldfield)

3. Substitute arrangements

The Chair advised that Mr West would be substituting for Mr Donnelly, Mr Primrose would be substituting for Ms Griffin and Ms Rhiannon would be substituting for Mr Oldfield for the purposes of this meeting

4. Budget Estimates 2005-2006 - Deliberative Meeting***Conduct of Hearing***

Resolved on motion of Ms Burnswoods: That the time allowed for return of answers to questions taken on notice be 21 days from the date the answers are forwarded to the Minister's office.

5. Budget Estimates 2005-2006 - Public Hearing

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

The Hon Cherie Burton MP, Minister for Housing, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisers:

Department of Housing

Mr Terry Barnes, Director-General

Mr Mike Allen, Deputy Director-General, Operations

Mr Ben Keneally, Executive Director, Policy Strategy and Finance

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 Housing open for examination.

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

Ms Hale tabled the following document:

- Environmental & Safety Professionals' letter to resident of Wauchope Street informing of results of asbestos testing, with attachments

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

6. Budget Estimates 2005-2006 - Deliberative

Resolved on motion of Ms Hale: 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 document tabled during the hearing.

Supplementary hearings

Ms Hale moved: That the Committee conduct a further two hour hearing to examine the portfolio of Housing, that both the Minister and Departmental representatives be invited, and that the timing of the meeting be determined by the Chair in consultation with Members.

Question put.

The committee divided.

Ayes: Mr Clarke, Ms Hale, Ms Gardiner

Noes: Ms Burnswoods, Mr West, Mr Primrose

Question resolved in the affirmative on the casting vote of the Chair.

7. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 4.05 pm *sine die*.

Madeleine Foley

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No 80

Wednesday, 30 November 2005

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4

At Parliament House at 1.35 pm, Parkes Room

1. Members Present

Ms Jenny Gardiner (Chair)

Ms Sylvia Hale

Ms Jan Burnswoods

Mr Greg Donnelly

Ms Amanda Fazio (Griffin)

Mr David Oldfield

2. **Substitute arrangements**

The Chair advised that Ms Fazio would be substituting for Ms Griffin for the purposes of this meeting.

3. **Budget Estimates 2005-2006 - Deliberative Meeting**

Confirmation of minutes

Resolved, on motion of Ms Hale: That Minutes 67 be confirmed.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Oldfield: That Minutes 68 be confirmed.

Resolved, on motion of Ms Hale: That Minutes 70 be confirmed.

Resolved, on motion of Ms Hale: That Minutes 71 be confirmed.

Correspondence

The Committee noted the following item of correspondence received:

- Letter from Hon Frank Sartor MP, correcting the transcript of 21 September 2005.

Supplementary hearings

Resolved on motion of Mr Oldfield: That in addition to supplementary hearings for the portfolios of Roads, Planning and Redfern Waterloo and Housing (as previously resolved), the committee conduct a supplementary hearing for the portfolio of Transport and State Development.

Resolved on motion of Mr Oldfield: That supplementary hearings for the following portfolios be two hours in duration: Transport and State Development; Roads; Planning, Redfern Waterloo; Housing.

Resolved on motion of Mr Oldfield: That the following witnesses be invited to the supplementary hearings:

- Transport and State Development: Relevant officials from the Ministry of Transport, the State Rail Authority of NSW, the State Transit Authority of NSW, the Sydney Ferries Corporation and the Department of State and Regional Development
- Roads: The Minister for Roads, the Hon Joseph Tripodi MP, and relevant official from the Roads and Traffic Authority
- Planning, Redfern Waterloo: Relevant officials from the Department of Planning, NSW Heritage Office and Redfern Waterloo Authority
- Housing: The Minister for Housing, the Hon Cherie Burton MP, and relevant officials from the Department of Housing.

Resolved on motion of Mr Oldfield: that the Committee Secretariat consult with Members about their availability for supplementary hearings during the week 20 – 24 February 2006, before contacting the relevant Ministers' Offices to arrange hearings during the week of 20 – 24 February 2006.

4. **Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 1.45 pm until Wednesday, 14 December 2005.

Stephen Frappell

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No 84

Wednesday, 22 February 2006

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4

At Parliament House at 9.50 am, Room 814/815

1. Members Present

Ms Jenny Gardiner (Chair)

Ms Sylvia Hale (Deputy Chair)

Ms Jan Burnswoods

Mr Greg Donnelly

Mr David Clarke

Mr David Oldfield

2. Budget Estimates 2005-2006 – Deliberative meeting

Confirmation of Minutes 80

Resolved on motion of Mr Donnelly: That Minutes 80 be confirmed.

Conduct of Hearing

Resolved on motion of Ms Hale: That the time allowed for return of answers to questions taken on notice be 14 days from the date the answers are forwarded to the Minister's office.

The Chair advised of the following format for the hearing:

- The officers from The Department of Planning would appear from 10.00 am to 11.00 am.
- The officers from the NSW Heritage Office and the Redfern Waterloo Authority would appear from 11.00 am - 12.00 noon

The Chair advised that time for questions would be allocated evenly between opposition, government and cross-bench members in 20-minute blocks.

3. Budget Estimates 2005-2006 - Public Hearing

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

The following officials were admitted:

Department of Planning

Mr Sam Haddad, Director-General

Ms Gail Connolly, Executive Director, Metropolitan Planning

Ms Chris Wilson, A/Executive Director, Sustainable Development Assessments and Approvals

Mr Peter Lucas, Chief Financial Officer

NSW Heritage Office

Mr Reece McDougall, Director

Ms Susan Macdonald, Assistant Director

Redfern Waterloo Authority

Mr Robert Domm, Chief Executive Officer

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 Planning and Redfern Waterloo open for examination.

The officials answered questions by Members of the Committee.

Examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Planning and Redfern Waterloo concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

4. **Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 12.05pm until 9.45am on Thursday, 23 February 2006 in Room 814/815.

Stephen Frappell

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No 85

Thursday, 23 February 2006

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4

At Parliament House at 9.50 am, Rm 814/815

1. **Members Present**

Ms Jenny Gardiner (Chair)

Ms Sylvia Hale (Deputy Chair) (from 9.50 am to 11.00 am)

Ms Jan Burnswoods

Mr Greg Donnelly

Ms Kayee Griffin

Ms Melinda Pavey (Clarke)

Mr David Oldfield

Ms Lee Rhiannon (Hale from 11.00 am)

2. **Substitute arrangements**

The Chair advised that Ms Pavey would be substituting for Mr Clarke for the purposes of this meeting, and that Ms Rhiannon would be substituting for Ms Hale from 11.00 am.

3. **Budget Estimates 2005-2006 – Deliberative meeting**

Confirmation of Minutes 84

Resolved on motion of Ms Hale: That Minutes 84 be confirmed.

Conduct of Hearing

Resolved on motion of Ms Hale: That the time allowed for return of answers to questions taken on notice be 14 days from the date the answers are forwarded to the Minister's office.

The Chair advised of the following format for the hearing:

- Mr Vince Graham, CEO, RailCorp would appear from 10.00 am to 11.00 am.
- Mr Jim Glasson, Director General, Ministry of Transport and Mr Roger Wilson, Acting CEO, State Transit Authority would appear from 11.00 am - 12.00 noon.

4. Budget Estimates 2005-2006 - Public Hearing

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

The following officials were admitted:

State Rail Authority of NSW

Mr Vince Graham, Chief Executive Officer, RailCorp

Ministry of Transport

Mr Jim Glasson, Director General

State Transit Authority of NSW

Mr Roger Wilson, Acting Chief Executive Officer

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 Transport open for examination.

The officials answered questions from Members of the Committee.

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

5. Budget Estimates 2005-2006 – Deliberative meeting

Supplementary hearings

Resolved on motion of Ms Pavey: That the Committee conduct a further public hearing on Wednesday, 15 March 2006 from 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm to take evidence from Rear Admiral Oxenbould, Acting CEO of Sydney Ferries.

Resolved on motion of Ms Burnswoods: That the Committee conduct a further public hearing on Wednesday, 15 March 2006 from 5.00 pm to 6.00 pm to take evidence from Mr Loftus Harris, Director General of the Department of State and Regional Development.

Correspondence

The Committee noted the following item of correspondence received:

- Letter from Ms Hale to the Chair re the buffer zone around the proposed quarry at Bungonia (dated 23 February 2006)

Questions of Notice from the Planning, Redfern Waterloo hearing

Resolved on motion of Ms Rhiannon: That the correspondence from Ms Hale to the Chair concerning the proposed quarry at Bungonia be forwarded to the Minister's Office along with questions on notice from the supplementary budget estimates hearing examining the portfolios of Planning and Redfern Waterloo conducted on Wednesday, 22 February 2006, and that the witnesses from the Department of Planning be asked to provide a response to the correspondence at the same time as their response to the questions on notice.

6. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 12.00 noon until 10.00 am on Wednesday, 15 March 2006 (Budget Estimates supplementary hearing).

Stephen Frappell

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No 86

Wednesday, 14 March 2006

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4

At Parliament House at 9.45 am, Rm 814/815

1. Members Present

Ms Jenny Gardiner (Chair)
 Ms Jan Burnswoods
 Mr David Clarke (from 10.00am)
 Mr Greg Donnelly
 Ms Kayee Griffin
 Mr Don Harwin (Clarke) (until 10.00am)
 Mr David Oldfield (from 10.40)
 Ms Rhiannon (Hale)

2. Substitute arrangements

The Chair advised that Ms Rhiannon would be substituting for Ms Hale for the purposes of this meeting.

3. Budget Estimates 2005-2006 – Deliberative meeting***Confirmation of Minutes 85***

Resolved on motion of Mr Donnelly: That Minutes 85 be confirmed.

Conduct of Hearing

Resolved on motion of Mr Donnelly: That the time allowed for return of answers to questions taken on notice be 14 days from the date the questions are forwarded to the Minister's Office.

The Chair advised that time for questions would be allocated evenly between opposition, government and cross-bench members.

4. Budget Estimates 2005-2006 - Public Hearing

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

The following officials from the Roads and Traffic Authority were admitted:

Mr Mike Hannon
Acting Chief Executive

Mr Brett Skinner
Director, Finance

Mr Brian Watters
Acting Director, Road Network Infrastructure

Mr Michael Bushby
Director, Road Safety, Licensing and Vehicle Management

Mr Chris Ford
Director, Traffic and Transport

Mr Les Wielinga
Director, Motorways

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 Roads open for examination.

The officials answered questions by Members of the Committee.

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

5. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 12.07 pm until 1.45 pm on Wednesday, 15 March 2006 in Rm 814/815 (Budget Estimates hearing for Housing portfolio and Sydney Ferries).

Madeleine Foley

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No 87

Wednesday, 14 March 2006

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4

At Parliament House at 1.50 pm, Rm 814/815

1. Members Present

Ms Jenny Gardiner (Chair)
 Ms Sylvia Hale (Deputy Chair) (until 4.00 pm)
 Ms Jan Burnswoods
 Mr David Clarke
 Mr Greg Donnelly
 Ms Kayee Griffin
 Mr David Oldfield
 Ms Lee Rhiannon (Hale) (from 4.00 pm)

2. Substitute arrangements

Ms Rhiannon substituted for Ms Hale throughout the evidence from the officials from Sydney Ferries.

3. Confirmation of Minutes 86

Resolved on motion of Ms Hale: That minutes 86 be confirmed.

4. Budget Estimates 2005-2006 – Deliberative meeting***Conduct of Hearing***

Resolved on motion of Ms Hale: That the time allowed for return of answers to questions taken on notice be 14 days from the date the answers are forwarded to the Minister's Office.

The Chair advised that time for questions would be allocated evenly between opposition, government and cross-bench members.

The Committee noted that Mr Loftus Harris, Director General of the Department of State and Regional Development, was overseas and unavailable for the hearing.

5. Budget Estimates 2005-2006 - Public Hearing

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

The following officials were admitted:

Department of Housing

Mr Mike Allen
 Director General

Mr Ben Keneally
 Executive Director, Policy Strategy and Finance

Sydney Ferries

Rear Admiral Chris Oxenbould
 Acting CEO

Ms Wendy Hughes
 Chief Financial Officer

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 Housing and Transport (Sydney Ferries) open for examination.

The officials answered questions by Members of the Committee.

Examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Housing and Transport (Sydney Ferries) concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

6. Budget Estimates 2005-2006 – Deliberative meeting

Committee report

Resolved on motion of Mr Oldfield: That the Committee secretariat prepare a draft report on the Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2005-2006.

7. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 5.05 pm until 10.00 am on Tuesday, 21 March 2006 in Rm 814/815 (Inquiry into Pacific Hwy Upgrades).

Rebecca Main

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No. 90

Wednesday, 5 April 2006

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4

7.05pm in the Members Lounge, Parliament House

1. Members Present

Ms Jenny Gardiner (Chair)

Ms Jan Burnswoods

Mr David Clarke

Mr Greg Donnelly

Ms Sylvia Hale

Ms Peter Primrose (Griffin)

2. Confirmation of Minutes 87

Resolved on motion of Ms Hale: That Minutes 87 be confirmed.

3. Budget Estimates 2005-2006

Correspondence

The Committee noted the following item of correspondence received:

- Letter from Mr Josh Murray, Chief of Staff, Minister for Transport, re questions on notice concerning Sydney Ferries (received 21 March)

Consideration of Chair's draft report

Resolved on motion of Ms Burnswoods:

- 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.

4. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 7.10 pm.

Stephen Frappell
Clerk to the Committee