

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

# **Budget Estimates 2007-2008**

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## Terms of Reference

1. That the resolution appointing five general purpose standing committees reflecting Government Ministers' portfolio responsibilities adopted by this House on 10 May 2007 be amended to reflect the changes to Government Ministers' portfolio responsibilities as follows:
  - (a) General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1
    - Premier
    - Citizenship
    - Juvenile Justice
    - Western Sydney
    - Treasury
    - Infrastructure
    - Hunter
    - The Legislature
    - Roads
    - Commerce
  - (b) General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2
    - Education and Training
    - Industrial Relations
    - Assistant finance
    - Central Coast
    - Fair Trading
    - Youth
    - Volunteering
    - Ageing
    - Disability Services
    - Health
  - (c) General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3
    - Police
    - Illawarra
    - Attorney General
    - Justice
    - Emergency Services
    - Water Utilities
    - Gaming and Racing
    - Sport and Recreation
    - Local Government
    - Aboriginal Affairs
  - (d) General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4
    - Transport
    - Finance
    - Planning
    - Redfern Waterloo
    - Arts

Science and Medical Research  
 Women  
 Community Services  
 Small Business  
 Regulatory Reform  
 Ports

(e) General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

Primary Industries  
 State Development  
 Mineral Resources  
 Energy  
 Lands  
 Rural Affairs  
 Regional Development  
 Waterways  
 Housing  
 Tourism  
 Climate Change and Environment  
 Water.

2. That the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2007-2008 presenting the amounts to be appropriated from the Consolidated Fund be referred to the General Purpose Standing Committees for inquiry and report.
3. The committees are to consider the Budget Estimates in accordance with the allocation of portfolios to the committees.
4. The committees must hear evidence in public.
5. Not more than two committees are to hear evidence simultaneously.
6. 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.
7. A daily Hansard record is to be published as soon as practicable after each day's proceedings.
8. That the Leader of the Government is to provide to each Committee, by Friday 13 July 2007, a schedule outlining the attendance of relevant ministers to appear before each committee, for the committee's consideration.
9. The committees may hold supplementary hearings as required.
10. The committees are to present a final report to the House by Friday 30 November 2007.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Extended to first sitting Thursday in March 2008 by resolution of the House Thursday 29 November 2007, *Minutes of Proceedings, No 33*, 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 54<sup>th</sup> Parliament, 29 November 2007, item 6

11. Committee members may lodge questions on notice with the Clerk to the committee up to two days following a hearing.
12. Questions lodged on notice are subject to standing order 67 and will be published in the Questions and Answers Paper.

## Committee Membership

<b>Mr Ian Cohen MLC</b>	The Greens	<i>Chair</i>
<b>The Hon Rick Colless MLC</b>	The Nationals	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
<b>The Hon Robert Brown MLC</b>	The Shooters Party	
<b>The Hon Tony Catanzariti MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party	
<b>The Hon Charlie Lynn MLC</b>	Liberal Party	
<b>The Hon Lynda Voltz MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party	
<b>The Hon Helen Westwood MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party	

## Other members who attended the hearings

<b>The Hon Eddie Obeid MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party
<b>The Hon Melinda Pavey MLC</b>	The Nationals
<b>The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party
<b>The Hon Mick Veitch MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party
<b>The Hon Trevor Khan MLC</b>	The Nationals
<b>The Hon Marie Ficarra MLC</b>	Liberal Party
<b>The Hon Henry Tsang MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party
<b>The Hon Greg Donnelly MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party
<b>The Hon Duncan Gay MLC</b>	The Nationals
<b>Dr John Kaye MLC</b>	The Greens

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## Chair's Foreword

I am pleased to present the report of General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5 on the 2007-2008 Budget Estimates. The Committee examined the following portfolio areas:

- Primary Industries
- State Development
- Mineral Resources
- Energy
- Lands
- Rural Affairs
- Regional Development
- Waterways
- Housing
- Tourism
- Climate Change and Environment
- Water

The Committee would like to thank the Ministers and other witnesses who gave evidence during the inquiry.



Mr Ian Cohen MLC  
Chair

# Chapter 1 Introduction

## Referral of the 2007-2008 Budget Estimates

- 1.1 On Thursday 28 June 2007, the Legislative Council resolved ‘that the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2007-2008 presenting the amounts to be appropriated from the Consolidated Fund be referred to the General Purpose Standing Committees for inquiry and report.’<sup>2</sup>
- 1.2 Each Committee was to examine the Budget Estimates for the relevant portfolios and report to the house by Friday 30 November 2007.<sup>3</sup>

## Hearings

- 1.3 The Committee held four public hearings as follows:
- Monday 15 October 2007 – Housing, Tourism
  - Friday 19 October 2007 – Energy, Primary Industries, Mineral Resources, State Development
  - Monday 22 October 2007 – Climate Change, Environment, Water
  - Friday 26 October 2007 – Lands, Rural Affairs, Regional Development.
- 1.4 A brief summary of the key issues raised during the hearings is contained in Chapter 2.

## Transcripts

- 1.5 Transcripts of the hearings are available on the Committee’s web page at [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc5](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc5).

## Questions on notice

- 1.6 Questions taken on notice, and the answers to these questions, are also available on the Committee’s web page.

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<sup>2</sup> *Minutes of Proceedings, No 15*, 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 54<sup>th</sup> Parliament, 28 June 2007, item 45

<sup>3</sup> *Minutes of Proceedings, No 15*, 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 54<sup>th</sup> Parliament, 28 June 2007, item 45, para 10

## Chapter 2 Issues raised during hearings

This chapter provides a brief summary by portfolio of the key issues raised during the hearings.

### Housing, Tourism

**2.1** A hearing examining the portfolios of Housing and Tourism was held on Monday 15 October 2007. The key issues raised during the hearing included:

- Rentstart affordable housing program
- Taxpayer contribution to the Bonnyrigg development
- Sale of housing by the Department on the private market
- Average length of time people are on the rental housing register in metropolitan and rural NSW
- Damage to Departmental housing
- Departmental expenditure on advertising
- Housing in rural New South Wales
- Sustainable housing, including smaller home units
- Housing for Aboriginal people
- Improvements to the Gordon Housing Estate, Dubbo and other large housing estates
- Encouraging tourism to rural and regional New South Wales
- Eco-tourism and eco-certification
- Local Government and tourism
- Tourism spending comparative to other States
- Decrease in visitation numbers since the Olympics
- Sponsorship of visit by David and Victoria Beckham
- Certification of the Alpine Way as a tourist route
- Promoting New South Wales internationally.

### Energy, Primary Industries, Mineral Resources and State Development

**2.2** A hearing examining the portfolios of Energy, Primary Industries, Mineral Resources and State Development was held on Friday 19 October 2007. The key issues raised during the hearing included:

- Allocation of drought funding
- Response to equine influenza

- Abalone fishing licences
- Freshwater aquatic reserves
- Response to abalone depletion
- Regulation of the poultry industry
- Creation of red gum reserves
- Use of chemicals in the forestry industry
- Clean up of derelict mine sites
- Review of the Mining Act 1992
- Carbon capture and sequestration technologies
- Carbon dioxide emissions
- Development of solar power technology
- Consideration of potential sites for wind farms
- Privatisation of the electricity industry
- Government targets for emissions trading schemes
- Biosequestration of carbon
- NSW Food Authority's use of proceeds from investments
- Impact of genetically modified canola on trade with Japan
- Food labelling standards.

## **Climate Change, Environment, Water**

**2.3** A hearing examining the portfolios of Climate Change, Environment and Water was held on Monday 22 October 2007. The key issues raised during the hearing included:

- Refurbishment of ministerial office accommodation
- Greenstar ratings
- Irrigation corporations
- National plan for the Murray-Darling basin
- Impact of the Tillegra Dam
- Outbreaks of Blue Green Algae on Lake Burragorang
- Salvinia outbreaks
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- The Menindee Lakes
- Rainwater tank rebate scheme

- Infrastructure for Warragamba Dam
- Dividends from water corporations
- Satellite monitoring of illegal land clearing
- Control of feral animals
- Management structure of the Department of Environment and Conservation
- Revenue from commercial activities in National Parks
- Bio Banking
- Threatened species
- Marine parks
- Voluntary conservation agreements.

## **Lands, Rural Affairs, Regional Development**

**2.4** A hearing examining the portfolios of Lands, Rural Affairs and Regional Development was held on Friday 26 October 2007. The key issues raised during the hearing included:

- Comparative expenditure on regional development with other States
- Promotion of country New South Wales
- Programs to educate people moving to rural and regional New South Wales
- Conservation agreements
- Perpetual leases
- New South Wales State Plan and regional development – vocational education and training targets
- The Western Lands Act
- New South Wales broadband strategy
- Parcels of land subject to the Indigenous Land use Agreement
- Resignation of the previous Director General of the Department of State and Regional Development
- Budget for minor dams
- Aboriginal land claims in the Byron Bay area
- Byron Shire Council management of caravan parks in Byron Bay and Brunswick Heads
- Negotiations to hand over the Broken Head Caravan park site to the Arkawal people
- Development of Killalea State Park
- Assessment of the conservation value of crown leases.

## Appendix 1 Witnesses

### 1. Housing, Tourism – Monday 15 October 2007

Name	Position
Hon Matt Brown MP	Minister for Housing and Minister for Tourism
Mr Allen Hedger	Acting Chief Executive Officer, Aboriginal Housing Office
Mr Michael Allen	Director General, Department of Housing
Mr Michael Cullen	Acting Director General, Department of State and Regional Development
Mr John O'Neill	Executive Director and General Manager, Tourism NSW

### 2. Energy, Primary Industries, Mineral Resources, State Development – Friday 19 October 2007

Name	Position
Hon Ian Macdonald MLC	Minister for Energy, Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Mineral Resources and Minister for State Development
Mr Barry Buffier	Director General, Department of Primary Industries
Mr Mark Duffy	Director General, Department of Water and Energy
Mr Michael Cullen	Acting Director General, Department of State and Regional Development
Mr George Davey	Director General, NSW Food Authority

### 3. Climate Change, Environment, Water – Monday 22 October 2007

Name	Position
Hon Philip Koperberg MP	Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water
Hon Verity Firth MP	Minister Assisting the Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water (Environment)
Dr Richard Sheldrake	Acting Director General, Department of Environment and Climate Change
Ms Robyn McKeown	Executive Director, Corporate Services Division, Department of Environment and Climate Change
Mr Tony Fleming	Deputy Director General, Parks and Wildlife Group, Department of Environment and Climate Change
Mr Simon Smith	Deputy Director General, Climate Change and Environment Protection Group
Mr Mark Duffy	Director General, Department of Water and Energy
Mr David Harris	Deputy Director General, Department of Water and Energy
Mr Ian Tanner	Acting Chief Executive Officer, Sydney Catchment Authority

**4. Lands, Rural Affairs, Regional Development – Friday 26 October 2007**

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Hon Tony Kelly MLC	Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs and Minister for Regional Development
Mr Warwick Watkins	Director General, Department of Lands
Mr Bob Costello	Director Finance and Corporate Support, Department of Lands
Mr Michael Cullen	Acting Director General, Department of State and Regional Development

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## Appendix 2 Minutes

### Minutes No. 2

Monday 15 October 2007

Room 814/815, Parliament House, Sydney, at 1.45pm

#### 1. Members present

Mr Robert Brown

Mr Ian Cohen

Mr Charlie Lynn

Mr Eddie Obeid (*Catanzariti*)

Ms Melinda Pavey (*Colless*)

Ms Lynda Voltz

Ms Helen Westwood

#### 2. Substitute members

The Committee noted advice of the following substitutions:

- Mr Eddie Obeid to substitute for Mr Tony Catanzariti
- Ms Melinda Pavey to substitute for Mr Richard Colless

#### 3. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence:

##### *Received*

- Email from Mr Greg Donnelly advising of substitution for Mr Tony Catanzariti (14 September 2007)
- Email from Ms Sylvia Hale advising she will be a participating member for the Housing portfolio only (12 October 2007)
- Letter from Mr Don Harwin advising of substitution for Mr Richard Colless (8 October 2007)

##### *Sent*

- Letter to Minister Brown inviting him to appear before the Committee at 2pm, Monday 15 October 2007 (11 September 2007).

#### 4. Conduct of hearing

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Lynn:

- That the sequence of questions to be asked alternate between Opposition, Cross Bench and Government members with 25 minutes allocated to each.
- That Housing be examined from 2:00pm until 3:15pm and Tourism be examined from 3:15pm until 4:30pm.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Pavey: That Ministers be requested to return answers to questions on notice taken during Budget Estimates hearings within 21 days of the day on which the questions are forwarded to the Minister by the Committee Clerk.

Mrs Pavey moved: That the Minister's opening statement be limited to five minutes.



Ms Voltz moved: That the motion of Ms Pavey be amended by replacing the words 'five minutes' with 'ten minutes'.

Amendment put.

The Committee divided:

Ayes: Voltz, Westwood, Brown

Noes: Cohen, Pavey, Lynn

Question resolved in the negative, on the casting vote of the Chair.

Original question put and passed.

## **5. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2007-2008 – Public Hearing**

The public and media were admitted.

The Hon Matt Brown MP, Minister for Housing and Minister for Tourism, was admitted, accompanied by the following officers:

### **Aboriginal Housing Office**

Mr Allen Hedger, Acting Chief Executive Officer

### **Department of Housing**

Mr Mike Allen, Director General

### **Department of State and Regional Development**

Mr Michael Cullen, Acting Director General

### **Tourism NSW**

Mr John O'Neill, Executive Director and General Manager

The Chair made a statement regarding procedural matters. All witnesses from departments, statutory bodies or corporations were sworn or affirmed. The Chair then declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Housing and Tourism open for examination.

The Minister and the officers accompanying the Minister answered questions from members of the Committee.

Evidence concluded and the witnesses, public and the media withdrew.

## **6. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 4.35 until 8.45am on Friday, 19 October 2007 in Room 814/815.

Victoria Pymm

**Clerk to the Committee**

**Minutes No. 3**

Friday 19 October 2007

Room 814/815, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9am

**1. Members present**Mr Ian Cohen (*Chair*)Mr Richard Colless (*Deputy Chair*)

Mr Robert Brown

Mr Tony Catanzarati

Mr Trevor Khan (*Lynn*)Ms Penny Sharpe (*Westwood*)Mr Mick Veitch (*Voltz*)**2. Substitute members**

The Committee noted advice of the following substitutions:

- Ms Penny Sharpe to substitute for Ms Helen Westwood.
- Mr Mick Veitch to substitute for Ms Lynda Voltz
- Mr Trevor Khan to substitute for Mr Charlie Lynn

**3. Participating members**

The Committee noted advice of the following participating members:

- Dr John Kaye
- Mr Duncan Gay

**4. Correspondence**

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence:

***Received***

- Email from Dr John Kaye advising he will be a participating member in the GPSC 5 meeting scheduled for 9am, Friday 19 October (25 September 2007).
- Letter from Mr Don Harwin advising of substitution for Mr Charlie Lynn (8 October 2007)
- Letter from Mr Greg Donnelly advising of substitution for Ms Voltz and Ms Westwood (14 September 2007).

***Sent***

- Letter to Minister Macdonald attaching an invitation for him to appear before the Committee at 9am Friday 19 October 2007 (11 September 2007).

**5. Conduct of hearing**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Brown: That the sequence of questions to be asked alternate between Government, Opposition and Cross Bench members with 20 minutes allocated to each.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Colless: That Primary Industries and Mineral Resources be examined from 9:00 until 11:30am, Energy be examined from 11:30 until 12:20pm, and State Development be examined from 12:20 until 1:00pm.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Brown: That the Minister be requested to return answers to questions on notice taken during Budget Estimates hearings within 35 days of the day on which the question is forwarded to the Premier by the Committee Clerk.

**6. Public hearing: Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2007-2008**

The public and media were admitted.

The Hon Ian MacDonald MLC, Minister for Energy, Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Mineral Resources and Minister for State Development, was admitted and accompanied by the following officers:

***Department of Primary Industries***

Mr Barry Buffer, Director General

***Department of Water and Energy***

Mr Mark Duffy, Director General

***Department of State and Regional Development***

Mr Michael Cullen, Acting Director General

***NSW Food Authority***

Mr George Davey, Director General

The Chair made a statement regarding procedural matters. All witnesses from departments, statutory bodies or corporations were sworn or affirmed. The Chair then declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Energy, Primary Industries, Mineral Resources and State Development open for examination.

The Minister and the officers accompanying the Minister answered questions from members of the Committee.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses, public and the media withdrew.

**7. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2007-2008 – Deliberative meeting**

***Supplementary hearings***

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Colless: That the Committee consider supplementary hearings for the portfolio areas of Energy, Primary Industries, Mineral Resources and State Development after the receipt of answers to questions taken on notice during the hearing.

**8. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 1:05pm until 8.45am on Monday 22 October 2007 in the Jubilee Room.

Merrin Thompson

**Clerk to the Committee**

**Minutes No. 4**

Monday 22 October 2007

Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 8.45am

**1. Members present**Mr Ian Cohen (*Chair*)

Mr Richard Colless

Mr Robert Brown

Ms Helen Westwood

Ms Marie Ficarra (*Lynn*)Mr Eddie Obeid (*Catanzarati*)Mr Mick Veitch (*Voltz*)**2. Substitute members**

The Committee noted advice of the following substitutions:

- Mr Eddie Obeid to substitute for Mr Tony Catanzarati
- Mr Mick Veitch to substitute for Ms Lynda Voltz
- Ms Marie Ficarra to substitute for Mr Charlie Lynn.

**3. Correspondence**

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence:

***Received***

- Email from Mr Greg Donnelly advising of substitutions for Mr Tony Catanzarati and Ms Lynda Voltz (14 September 2007)
- Letter from Mr Don Harwin advising of substitution for Mr Charlie Lynn (8 October 2007)
- Letter from Minister Koperberg requesting breakdown of allocated hearing time between portfolios and advising that Minister Firth will also be attending the hearing (11 October 2007).

***Sent***

- Letter to Minister Koperberg attaching an invitation for him to appear before the Committee at 9am, Monday 22 October 2007 (11 September 2007)

**4. Conduct of hearing**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Colless:

- That the sequence of questions to be asked alternate between Government, Opposition and Cross Bench members with 20 minutes allocated to each.
- That the Water portfolio be examined from 9:00am until 11:00am and Climate Change and Environment be examined from 11:00am until 1:00pm.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Ficarra: That the Minister be requested to return answers to questions on notice taken during the hearing within 21 days of the day on which the questions are forwarded to the Minister by the Committee Clerk.

Ms Westwood advised the Committee that she was a director of WSN Environmental Solutions, formerly known as Waste Services NSW, until February 2007.

**5. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2007-2008 – Public hearing**

The public and media were admitted.

The Hon Phil Koperberg MP, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Environment and Minister for Water, was admitted and accompanied by the Hon Verity Firth MP, Minister Assisting the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water (Environment) as well as the following officers:

***Department of Environment and Climate Change***

Dr Richard Sheldrake, Acting Director General

Ms Robyn McKeown, Executive Director, Corporate Services Division

Mr Tony Fleming, Deputy Director General Parks and Wildlife Group

***Climate Change and Environment Protection Group***

Mr Simon Smith, Deputy Director General

***Department of Water and Energy***

Mr Mark Duffy, Director General

Mr David Harris, Deputy Director General Water Management Division

***Sydney Catchment Authority***

Mr Ian Tanner, Acting Chief Executive

The Chair made a statement regarding procedural matters. All witnesses from departments, statutory bodies or corporations were sworn or affirmed. The Chair then declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Climate Change, Environment and Water open for examination.

The Minister and the officers accompanying the Minister answered questions from members of the Committee.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses, public and the media withdrew.

**6. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2007-2008 – Deliberative meeting*****Supplementary hearings***

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Colless: That the Committee consider supplementary hearings for the portfolio areas of Climate Change, Environment and Water after the receipt of answers to questions taken on notice during the hearing.

**7. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 1:05pm until 8.45am on Friday 26 October 2007 in the Jubilee Room.

Beverly Duffy

**Clerk to the Committee**

**Minutes No. 5**

Friday 26 October 2007

Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9am

**1. Members present**Mr Ian Cohen (*Chair*)

Mr Robert Brown

Mr Greg Donnelly (*Catanzarati*)Mrs Melinda Pavey (*Colless*)Mr Trevor Khan (*Lynn*)Mr Henry Tsang (*Westwood*)Mr Mick Veitch (*Voltz*)**2. Substitute members**

The Committee noted advice of the following substitutions:

- Mr Henry Tsang to substitute for Ms Helen Westwood
- Mr Mick Veitch to substitute for Ms Lynda Voltz
- Mr Greg Donnelly to substitute for Mr Tony Catanzarati
- Mrs Melinda Pavey to substitute for Mr Rick Colless
- Mr Trevor Khan to substitute for Mr Charlie Lynn.

**3. Previous minutes**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Brown: That draft Minutes No.2, No. 3 and No. 4 be confirmed.

**4. Correspondence**

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence:

***Received***

- Emails from Mr Greg Donnelly advising of substitutions for Ms Helen Westwood, Ms Lynda Voltz and Mr Tony Catanzarati (14 and 18 September 2007)
- Letter from Mr Don Harwin advising of substitutions for Mr Rick Colless and Mr Charlie Lynn (8 October 2007)
- Letter from Minister Kelly advising of list of witnesses to appear before the Committee (15 October 2007)

***Sent***

- Letter to Minister Kelly attaching an invitation for him to appear before the Committee at 9am, Friday 26 October 2007 (11 September 2007).

**5. Conduct of hearing**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Brown: That the sequence of questions to be asked alternate between Government, Opposition and Cross Bench members with 20 minutes allocated to each.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Brown: That the Minister be requested to return answers to questions on notice taken during the hearing within 21 days of the day on which the questions are forwarded to the Minister by the Committee Clerk.

**6. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2007-2008 – Public hearing**

The public and media were admitted.

The Hon Tony Kelly MLC, Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs and Minister for Regional Development, was admitted and accompanied by the following officers:

***Department of Lands***

Mr Warwick Watkins, Director General

Mr Bob Costello, Director Finance and Corporate Support

***Department of Regional Development***

Mr Michael Cullen, Acting Director General

The Chair made a statement regarding procedural matters. All witnesses from departments, statutory bodies or corporations were sworn or affirmed. The Chair then declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Lands, Rural Affairs and Regional Development open for examination.

The Minister and the officers accompanying the Minister answered questions from members of the Committee.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses, public and the media withdrew.

**7. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2007-2008 – Deliberative meeting**

**8. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 1.05pm *sine die*.

Julie Langsworth

**Clerk to the Committee**

**Minutes No. 6**

Monday 26 November 2007

Room 1136, Parliament House, Sydney, at 2.00pm

**1. Members present**

Mr Ian Cohen (*Chair*)

Mr Robert Brown

Mr Tony Catanzariti

Mr David Clarke (*Lynn*)

Mr Rick Colless

Ms Helen Westwood

**2. Substitutions**

The Chair advised that he had received written advice from the Opposition Whip that Mr Clarke would be substituting for Mr Lynn for the purposes of this meeting.

**3. Previous minutes**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Brown: That draft Minutes No 5 be confirmed.

#### 4. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence received.

- 8 November 2007 - Letter from the Hon Matt Brown MP, Minister for Housing and Minister for Tourism enclosing answers to questions taken on notice at the public hearing held on 15 October 2007.
- 15 November 2007 - Letter from the Hon Phil Koperberg MP, Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water enclosing answers to questions taken on notice at the public hearing held on 19 October 2007.
- 23 November 2007 – Letter from the Hon Tony Kelly MLC, Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs and Minister for Regional Development enclosing answers to questions taken on notice, relating to the portfolio of Regional Development, at the public hearing on 26 October 2007.

#### 5. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2007-2008

##### 5.1 Publication of answers to questions taken on notice at public hearings

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Catanzariti: That, according to section 4 of the *Parliamentary Papers (Supplementary Provisions) Act 1975* and Standing Order 223(1), the Committee authorises the publication of the answers to questions taken on notice at Budget Estimates 2007-2008 hearings with the exception of those answers for which confidentiality is requested.

##### 5.2 Future inquiry activity

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Colless: That the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, request the House extend the reporting date for the reference to GPSC 5 relating to Budget Estimates 2007-2008 and related papers to the first sitting Thursday of March 2008.

#### 6. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 2.15 pm until Thursday 6 December 2007 at 1:00pm in the Members' Lounge.

John Young  
Clerk to the Committee

#### Minutes No. 7

Thursday 6 December 2007

The Members' Lounge, Parliament House, Sydney, at 1.00pm

#### 1. Members present

Mr Ian Cohen (*Chair*)  
Mr Rick Colless  
Mr Tony Catanzariti  
Mr Charlie Lynn  
Ms Lynda Voltz  
Mr Mick Veitch (*Westwood*)

#### 2. Apologies

Mr Robert Brown



**3. Substitutions**

The Chair advised that he had received written advice from the Government Whip that Mr Veitch would be substituting for Ms Westwood for the purposes of this meeting.

**4. Previous minutes**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Catanzariti: That draft Minutes No 6 be confirmed.

**5. Correspondence**

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence received.

28 November 2007 - Letter from the Hon Ian MacDonald MLC, Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources and Minister for State Development enclosing answers to questions taken on notice at the public hearing held on 19 October 2007.

30 November 2007 - Letter from the Hon Tony Kelly MLC, Minister for Lands enclosing answers to questions taken on notice at the public hearing held on 26 October 2007.

**6. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2007-2008**

**6.1 Consideration of Chair's draft report**

The Chair tabled his draft report entitled *Budget Estimates 2007-2008* which having been previously circulated was taken as being read.

The Committee considered the draft report *in globo*.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Voltz: That the draft report be the report of the Committee and presented to the House according to Standing Order 231.

**7. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 1:06 pm *sine die*.

John Young  
Clerk to the Committee