

General Purpose Standing Committee No 5

Budget Estimates 2010 - 2011

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How to contact the committee

Members of the General Purpose Standing Committee No 5 can be contacted through the Committee Secretariat. Written correspondence and enquiries should be directed to:

The Director

General Purpose Standing Committee No 5

Legislative Council

Parliament House, Macquarie Street

Sydney New South Wales 2000

Internet www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc5

Email gpscno5@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Telephone (02) 9230 3367

Facsimile (02) 9230 2981

Terms of reference

1. That upon tabling, the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2010-2011 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. That the initial hearings be scheduled as follows:

Day One: Monday 13 September 2010

GPSC1	Tourism, Hunter, Science & Medical, Research, Women	9.15 am – 1.00 pm
GPSC2	Health	9.15 am – 1.00 pm
GPSC2	Ageing, Disability Services, Volunteering, Youth	2.00 pm – 6.00 pm
GPSC1	Ports and Waterways, Illawarra	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
GPSC1	Mineral & Forest Resources	4.15 pm – 6.00 pm

Day Two: Tuesday 14 September 2010

GPSC1	Treasury, Special Minister of State, State Development & Regional Development	9.15 am – 1.00 pm
GPSC3	Local Government, Juvenile Justice, Mental Health	9.15 am – 1.00 pm
GPSC1	Premier, Redfern Waterloo	2.00 pm – 6.00 pm
GPSC3	Attorney General, Regulatory Reform, Citizenship	2.00 pm – 4.30 pm
GPSC3	The Legislature	4.45 pm – 6.00 pm

Day Three: Wednesday 15 September 2010

GPSC2	Education and Training	9.15 am – 1.00 pm
GPSC4	Fair Trading, Arts	9.15 am – 11.00 am
GPSC4	Housing, Small Business, Veteran's Affairs	11.15 am – 1.00 pm
GPSC2	Community Services, State Plan	2.00 pm – 6.00 pm
GPSC4	Planning, Infrastructure, Lands	2.00 pm – 6.00 pm

Day Four: Thursday 16 September 2010

GPSC4	Transport, Central Coast	9.15 am – 1.00 pm
GPSC5	Industrial Relations, Commerce, Energy Public Sector Reform, Aboriginal Affairs	9.15 am – 1.00 pm
GPSC4	Roads, Western Sydney	2.00 pm – 6.00 pm
GPSC5	Water, Corrective Services	2.00 pm – 6.00 pm

Day Five: Friday 17 September 2010

GPSC3	Police, Finance	9.15 am – 1.00 pm
GPSC5	Climate Change & Environment, Cancer	9.15 am – 1.00 pm
GPSC3	Gaming & Racing, Sport & Recreation, Major Events	2.00 pm – 6.00 pm
GPSC5	Primary Industries, Emergency Services, Rural Affairs	2.00 pm – 6.00 pm

4. That an initial round of supplementary hearings be scheduled as follows:

Day One: Monday 15 November 2010

GPSC 1
GPSC 2

Day Two: Tuesday 16 November 2010

GPSC 1
GPSC 3

Day Three: Wednesday 17 November 2010

GPSC 4
GPSC 2

Day Four: Thursday 18 November 2010

GPSC 4
GPSC 5

Day Five: Friday 19 November 2010

GPSC 5
GPSC 3

5. That the committees may hold additional supplementary hearings after 19 November 2010 as required.
6. That each scheduled day for the initial round of hearings will begin at 9.15 am and conclude by 6.00 pm.
7. The committees must hear evidence in public.
8. 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.

9. There is no provision under this resolution for a Minister or officer of a Department to make an opening statement before the committee commences questions.
10. A daily Hansard record is to be published as soon as practicable after each day's proceedings.
11. The committees are to present a final report to the House by the last sitting day of the first sitting week in March 2011.
12. Members may lodge questions on notice with the Clerk to the committee during a Budget Estimates hearing and up to two days following.
13. All answers to questions taken on notice during the hearing, and questions on notice lodged up to two days following the hearing, must be provided within 21 days, or as otherwise determined by the committee.

The terms of reference were referred to the Committee by the House on 24 November 2009, see *LC Minutes* (24/11/2009) 1536-1537, Item 12; amended *LC Minutes* (2/12/2009) 1601-1602, Item 8; amended *LC Minutes* (1/09/2010) 2001-2002, Item 4; amended *LC Minutes* (8/09/2010) 2036, Item 16.

Committee membership

Mr Ian Cohen MLC	The Greens	<i>(Chair)</i>
The Hon Rick Colless MLC	The Nationals	<i>(Deputy Chair)</i>
The Hon Robert Brown MLC	Shooters and Fishers Party	
The Hon Tony Catanzariti MLC	Australian Labor Party	
The Hon Luke Foley MLC	Australian Labor Party	
The Hon Charlie Lynn MLC	Liberal Party	
The Hon Helen Westwood MLC	Australian Labor Party	

Non-substantive members who attended the hearings

The Hon David Clarke MLC	Liberal Party
The Hon Sophie Cotsis MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon Catherine Cusack MLC	Liberal Party
The Hon Duncan Gay MLC	The Nationals
Dr John Kaye MLC	The Greens
The Hon Melinda Pavey MLC	The Nationals
The Hon Greg Pearce MLC	Liberal Party
Mr David Shoebridge MLC	The Greens
The Hon Mick Veitch MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon Lynda Voltz MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon Ian West MLC	Australian Labor Party

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Chair's foreword

I am pleased to present this report on the Budget Estimates 2010-2011. This annual Inquiry into the Budget Estimates ensures parliamentary oversight of the Budget, and provides an important mechanism for the accountability of the executive government to the Council.

During the initial round of hearings the Committee held four hearings, receiving fourteen hours of evidence, to examine the portfolio areas of Industrial Relations, Commerce, Energy, Public Sector Reform, Aboriginal Affairs, Water, Corrective Services, Climate Change and Environment, Cancer, Primary Industries, Emergency Services and Rural Affairs.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank the Ministers and their officers who assisted the Committee during this important Inquiry. I am grateful to my fellow Committee members for their contributions to the Inquiry process.



Ian Cohen MLC
Chair

Chapter 1 Introduction

Referral of the 2010 – 2011 Budget Estimates

- 1.1 On 24 November 2009, the Legislative Council resolved that ‘the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2010-2011 presenting the amounts to be appropriated from the Consolidated Fund be referred to the General Purpose Standing Committees for inquiry and report’.¹
- 1.2 The resolution (hereafter referred to as the Budget Estimates Resolution) requires each committee to examine the Budget Estimates for the relevant portfolios and report to the House by the last sitting day of the first sitting week in March 2011.

Hearings

- 1.3 The Committee held four hearings as follows:
- Thursday 16 September 2010 – Industrial Relations, Commerce, Energy, Public Sector Reform and Aboriginal Affairs
 - Thursday 16 September 2010 – Water and Corrective Services
 - Friday 17 September 2010 – Climate Change and Environment and Cancer
 - Friday 17 September 2010 – Primary Industries, Emergency Services and Rural Affairs
- 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.

Questions on notice

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

¹ *LC Minutes* (24/11/2009) 1536-1537, amended *LC Minutes* (2/12/2009) 1600-1601, amended *LC Minutes* (1/9/2010) 2001-2002.

Chapter 2 Issues raised during hearings

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

Industrial Relations, Commerce, Energy, Public Sector Reform and Aboriginal Affairs

2.1 A hearing to examine the portfolios of Industrial Relations, Commerce, Energy, Public Sector Reform and Aboriginal Affairs was held on Thursday 16 September 2010.

2.2 The following issues were raised in relation to Industrial Relations, Commerce and Public Sector Reform:

- Industrial Relations Advisory Council
- Industrial Relations Office
- Office of Procurement
- Government car fleet
- Transition to retirement and superannuation
- Child labour
- Digital radio network
- Sandstone work
- Paid maternity leave scheme
- CALD programs.

2.3 The following issues were raised in relation to Energy:

- Cobbora deal and coal prices
- Relationship with Treasury
- Solar rebate scheme
- TransGrid controversies
- National market and demand planning
- Aluminium industry
- Energy efficiencies
- Government energy schemes
- Government investment in infrastructure
- Craig Murray, Country Energy
- National Energy Reform Process

- Undergrounding of electricity lines.

2.4 The following issues were raised in relation to Aboriginal Affairs:

- Ministerial visits to Aboriginal communities
- Safe Families Program
- Bullying and intimidation in the Department
- Services to assist negotiations with Aboriginal people
- Aboriginal Trust Fund Administration Scheme
- Aboriginal Land Rights claims
- Aboriginal employment and training
- Support for retention of Aboriginal languages
- Water and Sewerage Program.

Water and Corrective Services

2.5 A hearing to examine the portfolios of Water and Corrective Services was held on Thursday 16 September 2010.

2.6 The following issues were raised in relation to Water:

- Regional water issues
- Tillegra Dam
- Greater Metropolitan Region Water Sharing Plan
- Metropolitan Water Plan
- Desalination
- Research and development.

2.7 The following issues were raised in relation to Corrective Services:

- Staffing issues, including training schools, use of temporary staff, transfer lists and ratio of inmates to staff
- Operation of the privatised Parklea Correctional Centre
- Identification and treatment of mental health issues in inmates, including the use of screening units.

Climate Change and Environment and Cancer

- 2.8** A hearing to examine the portfolios of Climate Change and Environment and Cancer was held on Friday 17 September 2010.
- 2.9** The following issues were raised in relation to Climate Change and Environment:
- Radioactive waste
 - Number of visitors to national parks
 - Environmental water
 - Old growth forests and logging
 - Marine parks
 - Air quality and asthma.
- 2.10** The following issues were raised in relation to Cancer:
- Smoking rates
 - Tobacco and anti-smoking advertising
 - Breast cancer screening
 - Cancer research.

Primary Industries, Emergency Services and Rural Affairs

- 2.11** A hearing to examine the portfolios of Primary Industries, Emergency Services and Rural Affairs was held on Friday 17 September 2010.
- 2.12** The following issues were raised in relation to Primary Industries and Rural Affairs:
- The number of fisheries compliance officers employed by the Department
 - Fishing in sanctuary zones
 - Incorrect maps of fishing sanctuary zones
 - Structural adjustment in the fishing industry
 - Shark Net programs
 - Rice production
 - Agricultural research stations at Trangie
 - Expenditure on biosecurity
- 2.13** The following issues were raised in relation to Emergency Services:
- NSW Fire Brigades budget overruns
 - Number of fires caused by insulation

- Workers' compensation claims and sick leave in the NSW Fire Brigades
- Volunteer numbers in the Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Service
- Allocation of funds to local councils for the Rural Fire Service
- Allegations of bullying and sexual harassment in the NSW Fire Brigades
- Bushfire hazard reduction strategies
- Rates of arson

Appendix 1 Witnesses at hearings

1. Industrial Relations, Commerce, Energy, Public Sector Reform and Aboriginal Affairs – Thursday 16 September 2010

Name	Position and Organisation
The Hon Paul Lynch MP	Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Commerce, Minister for Energy, Minister for Public Sector Reform, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Mr Don Jones	Former Executive Director, NSW Industrial Relations
Mr Peter Duncan	Director General, Department of Services, Technology and Administration
Mr Sajeev George	Manager, Corporate, Department of Services, Technology and Administration
Ms Anne Skewes	Deputy Director General, Government Services, Department of Services, Technology and Administration
Mr Brian Baker	Deputy Director General, NSW Public Works, Department of Services, Technology and Administration
Mr Chris Raper	Deputy Director General, Public Sector Management Reform, Department of Premier and Cabinet
Mr Mark Duffy	Deputy Director General, Minerals and Energy
Ms Karen Smith	Executive Director, Energy
Mr James Christian	Chief Executive, Aboriginal Affairs NSW, Department of Human Services
Mr Stephen Wright	Registrar, NSW Aboriginal Land Council

2. Water and Corrective Services - Thursday 16 September 2010

Name	Position and Organisation
The Hon Phillip Costa MP	Minister for Water and Minister for Corrective Services
Mr David Harriss	Commissioner, NSW Office of Water
Mr George Warne	Chief Executive Officer, State Water
Mr Michael Bullen	Chief Executive Officer, Sydney Catchment Authority
Mr Kevin Young	Managing Director, Hunter Water Corporation
Dr Kerry Schott	Managing Director, Sydney Water Corporation
Mr Ron Woodham	Commissioner, Department of Corrective Services
Mr Gerry Schipp	Deputy Commissioner, Corporate Services, Department of Corrective Services
Mr Luke Grant	Assistant Commissioner, Offender Services and Programs, Department of Corrective Services

3. Climate Change and Environment and Cancer - Thursday 16 September 2010

Name	Position and Organisation
The Hon Frank Sartor MP	Minister for Climate Change and the Environment and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)
Ms Lisa Corbyn	Director General, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
Mr Simon Smith	Deputy Director General, Climate Change, Policy and Programs Group, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water

Name	Position and Organisation
Ms Sally Barnes	Deputy Director General, Parks and Wildlife Group, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
Mr Greg Sullivan	Deputy Director General, Environment Protection and Regulation Group, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
Mr Neil Hayman	Acting Executive Director, Corporate Services Division, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
Mr Cameron Kerr	Chief Executive Officer, Taronga Zoo
Professor David Currow	Chief Cancer Officer and Chief Executive Officer, Cancer Institute NSW
Dr Kerry Chant	A/Deputy Director General, Population Health & Chief Health Officer, NSW Health

4. Primary Industries, Emergency Services and Rural Affairs – Friday 17 September 2010

Name	Position and Organisation
The Hon Steve Whan MP	Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Rural Affairs
Dr Richard Sheldrake	Director General, Department of Industry and Investment
Mr George Davey	Deputy Director General (Primary Industries), Department of Industry and Investment
Mr Alan Coutts	Chief Executive Officer, Food Authority
Mr John Newcombe	Director, Education Planning and Private Forestry
Mr Greg Mullins AFSM	Commissioner, NSW Fire Brigades
Mr Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM	Commissioner, NSW Rural Fire Service
Mr Murray Kear AFSM	Commissioner, State Emergency Service
Mr Stacey Tannos	Director, Emergency Management NSW

Appendix 2 Tabled documents

Friday 17 September 2010

Public Hearing, Room 814/815, Parliament House

1. Environment, Climate Change and Water, *Domestic visitation to NSW national parks*, <<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research/NSWparkspopularity.htm>>, (Accessed 17 September 2010) – Tendered by Minister Sartor.
2. Report prepared by Roy Morgan Research entitled Annual Visits to PWG Managed Parks in New South Wales – Final Report, dated April 2009 – Tendered by Minister Sartor.

Appendix 3 Minutes

Minutes No 49

Monday 6 September 2010

Room 1102, at 10.00 am

1. Members present

Mr Ian Cohen (*Chair*)

Mr Rick Colless (*Deputy Chair*)

Mr Tony Catanzariti

Mr Robert Brown

Ms Marie Ficarra (*Lynn*)

Mr Luke Foley

Ms Helen Westwood

2. ***

3. Budget Estimates

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Westwood: That for the initial round of hearings into the Budget Estimates 2010-2011, the sequence of questions to be asked alternate between Opposition, Cross Bench and Government members, in that order, with 20 minutes allocate to each.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Westwood: That, according to section 4 of the *Parliamentary Papers (Supplementary Provisions) Act 1975* and standing order 223(1), the Committee authorise the Clerk of the Committee to publish the answers provided to questions on notice, except those answers for which confidentiality is requested, after these answers have been circulated to committee members.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Westwood: That on Thursday 16 September 2010, the Industrial Relations, Commerce and Public Sector Reform portfolios be examined from 9.15 am until 10.30 am, the Energy portfolio be examined from 10.30 am until 11.45 am, and the Aboriginal Affairs portfolio be examined from 11.45 am until 1.00 pm.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Colless: That on Thursday 16 September 2010, the Water portfolio be examined from 2.00 pm until 4.00 pm and the Corrective Services portfolio be examined from 4.00 pm until 6.00 pm.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Westwood: That on Friday 17 September 2010, the Climate Change and Environment portfolio be examined from 9.15 am until 12.00 pm, and the Cancer portfolio be examined from 12.00 pm until 1.00 pm.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Colless: That on Friday 17 September 2010, the Primary Industries and Rural Affairs portfolios be examined from 2.00 pm until 4.30 pm and the Emergency Services portfolio be examined from 4.30 pm until 6.00 pm.

4. ***

5. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 1.00 pm, *sine die*.

Beverly Duffy

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No 50

Thursday, 16 September 2010

Room 814/815, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9.13 am

1. Members presentMr Ian Cohen (*Chair*)Mr Duncan Gay (*Colless* – Energy and Aboriginal Affairs)

Mr Robert Brown

Mr Tony Catanzariti

Mr David Clarke (*Lynn*)Mr Greg Pearce (*Colless* – Industrial Relations, Commerce and Public Sector Reform)Ms Lynda Voltz (*Foley*)

Ms Helen Westwood

2. Substitute members

The Chair advised that she had received written advice that the following members would be substituting for the purposes of this hearing:

- Mr Clarke to substitute for Mr Lynn
- Mr Gay to substitute for Mr Colless for the Energy and Aboriginal Affairs portfolios
- Mr Pearce to substitute for Mr Colless for the Industrial Relations, Commerce and Public Sector Reform portfolios.
- Ms Voltz to substitute for Mr Foley.

3. Participating members

The Chair advised that the following member would be attending the meeting as a participating member:

- Dr Kaye (Industrial Relations, Commerce, Public Sector Reform and Energy).

4. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following item of correspondence sent:

- 20 August 2010 – From Secretariat to Minister Lynch, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Commerce, Minister for Energy, Minister for Public Sector Reform and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs regarding the Minister's scheduled appearance time for the Inquiry into the Budget Estimates 2010-2011.

5. Public hearing: Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2010-2011

Witnesses, the public and media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters. The Chair reminded Minister Lynch that he did not need to be sworn, as he had sworn an oath to his office as a member of Parliament.

The following officials from departments, statutory bodies or corporations were sworn:

- Mr Don Jones, Former Executive Director, NSW Industrial Relations
- Mr Peter Duncan, Director General, Department of Services, Technology and Administration
- Mr Sajeev George, Manager, Corporate, Department of Services, Technology and Administration
- Ms Anne Skewes, Deputy Director General, Government Services, Department of Services, Technology and Administration
- Mr Brian Baker, Deputy Director General, NSW Public Works, Department of Services, Technology and Administration
- Mr Chris Raper, Deputy Director General, Public Sector Management Reform, Department of Premier and Cabinet.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Industrial Relations, Commerce, Energy, Public Sector Reform and Aboriginal Affairs open for examination.

The Minister and other witnesses were examined by the Committee.

The evidence concluded and the departmental witnesses withdrew.

The following officials from the Department of Industry and Investment were sworn:

- Mr Mark Duffy, Deputy Director General, Minerals and Energy
- Ms Karen Smith, Executive Director, Energy.

The Chair then declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio of Energy open for examination.

The Minister and other witnesses were examined by the Committee.

The evidence concluded and the departmental witnesses withdrew.

The following officials from departments, statutory bodies or corporations were sworn:

- Mr James Christian, Chief Executive, Aboriginal Affairs NSW, Department of Human Services
- Mr Stephen Wright, Registrar, NSW Aboriginal Land Council.

The Chair then declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio of Aboriginal Affairs open for examination.

The Minister and other witnesses were examined by the Committee.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 1.02 pm.

The public and media withdrew.

6. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 1.02 pm until Thursday, 16 September 2010 at 2.00 pm.

Rachel Callinan

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No 51

Thursday, 16 September 2010

General Purpose Standing Committee No 5

Room 814/815, Parliament House, Sydney, at 2.00 pm

1. Members present

Mr Ian Cohen (*Chair*)

Mr Rick Colless (*Deputy Chair*)

Mr Robert Brown

Mr Tony Catanzariti

Mr David Clarke (*Lynn*)

Ms Sophie Cotsis (*Westwood*)

Mr Luke Foley

2. Substitute members

The Chair advised that she had received written advice that the following members would be substituting for the purposes of this hearing:

- Ms Cotsis to substitute for Ms Westwood
- Mr Clarke to substitute for Mr Lynn.

3. Participating members

The Chair advised that the following members would be attending the meeting as participating members:

- Dr Kaye (Water)
- Mr Shoebridge (Corrective Services).

4. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following item of correspondence sent:

- 20 August 2010 – From Secretariat to Minister Costa, Minister for Water and Minister for Corrective Services regarding the Minister’s scheduled appearance time for the Inquiry into the Budget Estimates 2010 – 2011.

5. Public hearing: Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2010-2011

Witnesses, the public and media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters. The Chair reminded Minister Costa that he did not need to be sworn, as he had sworn an oath to his office as a member of Parliament.

The following officials from departments, statutory bodies or corporations were sworn:

- Mr David Harriss, Commissioner, NSW Office of Water
- Mr George Warne, Chief Executive Officer, State Water
- Mr Michael Bullen, Chief Executive Officer, Sydney Catchment Authority
- Mr Kevin Young, Managing Director, Hunter Water Corporation
- Dr Kerry Schott, Managing Director, Sydney Water Corporation.

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

The Minister and other witnesses were examined by the Committee.

The evidence concluded and the departmental witnesses withdrew.

Mr Brown and Dr Kaye left the hearing.

Mr Shoebridge arrived at the hearing.

The following officials from the Department of Corrective Services were sworn:

- Mr Ron Woodham, Commissioner
- Mr Gerry Schipp, Deputy Commissioner, Corporate Services
- Mr Luke Grant, Assistant Commissioner, Offender Services and Programs.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio of Corrective Services open for examination.

The Minister and other witnesses were examined by the Committee.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 5.30 pm.

The public and media withdrew.

6. Deliberative meeting

Transcript from the Budget Estimates hearing into the Aboriginal Affairs portfolio

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Catanzariti: That the names of the four NSW towns in which the Safe Families Program is being run be suppressed from the publicly available transcript of 16 September 2010 for the GPSC5 hearing into the Budget Estimates for the portfolio of Aboriginal Affairs.

Supplementary hearings

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Colless: That the Committee defer consideration of supplementary hearings until after the answers to questions taken on notice relating to the Water and Corrective Services portfolios are received.

7. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 5.36 pm until Friday, 17 September 2010 at 9.15 am.

Rhia Victorino

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No. 52

Friday, 17 September 2010

Room 814/815, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9.13 am

1. Members present

Mr Ian Cohen (*Chair*)

Mr Rick Colless (*Deputy Chair*)

Mr Robert Brown

Ms Catherine Cusack (*Lynn*)

Mr Luke Foley

Mr Ian West (*Catanzariti*)

Ms Helen Westwood

2. Substitute members

The Chair advised that he had received written advice that the following members would be substituting for the purposes of this hearing:

- Ms Cusack to substitute for Mr Lynn
- Mr West to substitute for Mr Catanzariti.

3. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following item of correspondence sent:

- 20 August 2010 – From Secretariat to Minister Sartor, Minister for Climate Change and the Environment and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), regarding the Minister's scheduled appearance time for the Inquiry into the Budget Estimates 2010-2011.

4. Public hearing: Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2010-2011

Witnesses, the public and media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters. The Chair reminded Minister Sartor that he did not need to be sworn, as he had sworn an oath to his office as a member of Parliament.

The following officials from departments, statutory bodies or corporations were sworn:

- Ms Lisa Corbyn, Director General, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
- Mr Simon Smith, Deputy Director General, Climate Change, Policy and Programs Group, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
- Ms Sally Barnes, Deputy Director General, Parks and Wildlife Group, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
- Mr Greg Sullivan, Deputy Director General, Environment Protection and Regulation Group, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
- Mr Neil Hayman, Acting Executive Director, Corporate Services Division, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
- Mr Cameron Kerr, Chief Executive Officer, Taronga Zoo

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Climate Change and Environment and Cancer open for examination.

The Minister and other witnesses were examined by the Committee.

Minister Sartor tendered the following documents:

- Environment, Climate Change and Water, *Domestic visitation to NSW national parks*, <<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research/NSWparkspopular.htm>>, (Accessed 17 September 2010)
- Report prepared by Roy Morgan Research entitled "Annual Visits to PWG Managed Parks in New South Wales – Final Report", dated April 2009.

The evidence concluded and the departmental witnesses withdrew.

The following officials from departments, statutory bodies or corporations were sworn:

- Professor David Currow, Chief Cancer Officer and Chief Executive Officer, Cancer Institute NSW
- Dr Kerry Chant, A/Deputy Director General, Population Health & Chief Health Officer, NSW Health

The Minister and other witnesses were examined by the Committee.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 1.03 pm.

The public and media withdrew.

5. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 1.03 pm until Friday, 17 September 2010 at 2.00 pm.

Teresa McMichael

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No 53

Friday, 17 September 2010

Room 814/815, Parliament House, Sydney, at 2.00 pm

1. Members present

Mr Ian Cohen (*Chair*)
Mr Rick Colless (*Deputy Chair*) (until 3.25 pm)
Mr Robert Brown
Ms Sophie Cotsis (*Catanzariti*)
Ms Melinda Pavey (*Lynn* – Emergency Services portfolio)
Mr Mick Veitch (*Foley*)
Ms Helen Westwood

2. Substitute members

The Chair advised that she had received written advice that the following members would be substituting for the purposes of this hearing:

- Ms Cotsis to substitute for Mr Catanzariti
- Ms Pavey to substitute for Mr Lynn
- Mr Veitch to substitute for Mr Foley.

3. Participating members

The Chair advised that the following member would be attending the meeting as a participating member:

- Mr Gay (Primary Industries, Rural Affairs portfolios).

4. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence sent:

- 20 August 2010 – From Secretariat to Minister Whan, Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Rural Affairs regarding the Minister's scheduled appearance time for the Inquiry into the Budget Estimates 2010 – 2011.

5. Public hearing: Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2010-2011

Witnesses, the public and media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters. The Chair reminded Minister Whan that he did not need to be sworn, as he had sworn an oath to his office as a member of Parliament.

The following officials from departments, statutory bodies or corporations were sworn:

- Dr Richard Sheldrake, Director General, Department of Industry and Investment
- Mr George Davey, Deputy Director General (Primary Industries), Department of Industry and Investment
- Mr Alan Coutts, Chief Executive Officer, Food Authority
- Mr John Newcombe, Director, Education Planning and Private Forestry.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Primary Industries and Rural Affairs open for examination.

The Minister and other witnesses were examined by the Committee.

The evidence concluded and the departmental witnesses withdrew.

Mr Colless left the meeting.

The following officials from departments, statutory bodies or corporations were sworn:

- Mr Greg Mullins AFSM, Commissioner, NSW Fire Brigades
- Mr Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM, Commissioner, NSW Rural Fire Service
- Mr Murray Kear AFSM, Commissioner, State Emergency Service
- Mr Stacey Tannos, Director, Emergency Management NSW.

The Chair then declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio of Emergency Services open for examination.

The Minister and other witnesses were examined by the Committee.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 4.40 pm.

The public and media withdrew.

6. **Deliberative meeting**

Supplementary hearings

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Brown: That the Committee hold no further hearings to consider matters relating to the portfolios of Primary Industries, Emergency Services and Rural Affairs.

7. **Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 4.56 pm *sine die*

Abigail Groves

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No. 54

Tuesday 26 October 2010

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

Members Lounge, Parliament House, Sydney, at 1:45 pm

1. **Members present**

Mr Ian Cohen (*Chair*)
 Mr Rick Colless (*Deputy Chair*)
 Mr Robert Brown
 Ms Sophie Cotsis (*Catanzariti*)
 Mr Charlie Lynn
 Mr Luke Foley
 Ms Helen Westwood

2. **Substitute members**

The Chair advised that he had received written advice that the following members would be substituting for the purposes of this hearing:

- Ms Cotsis to substitute for Mr Catanzariti

3. **Minutes**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Brown: That draft Minutes Nos. 50, 51, 52 and 53, be confirmed.

4. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence sent:

- 10 September 2010 – Correspondence from South East Forest Rescue with summary report attached regarding the south coast native forests.
- 13 October 2010 – Correspondence from Ian Cohen to the Committee Director regarding the due date for answers to questions on notice for the Climate Change and Environment portfolio
- 14 October 2010 – Email from the Director to the Committee regarding the due date for answers to questions on notice for the Climate Change and Environment portfolio
- Letters providing answers to questions taken on notice during the Budget Estimates hearings on Thursday, 16 September 2010
 - 12 October 2010 – Minister Lynch – Industrial Relations, Commerce, Energy, Public Sector Reform and Aboriginal Affairs
 - 12 October 2010 – Minister Costa – Water and Corrective Services.
- Letters providing answers to questions taken on notice during the Budget Estimates hearings on Friday, 17 September 2010
 - 11 October 2010 – Minister Sartor – Climate Change and Environment and Cancer
 - 13 October 2010 – Minister Whan – Primary Industries, Emergency Services and Rural Affairs
 - 15 October 2010 – Minister Sartor – Climate Change and Environment
 - 18 October 2010 – Minister Whan – Emergency Services
 - 19 October 2010 – Minister Costa – Corrective Services.
- 21 October 2010 – email to the Committee from the secretariat, attaching answers to questions on notice for the Mineral and Forest Resources portfolio which were provided to GPSC 1 when this Committee had carriage of this portfolio.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Colless:

- That the Committee write to the Minister for Primary Industry, the Hon Steve Whan, requesting an answer to Question 19b submitted by the Hon Melinda Pavey regarding hazard reduction in local government areas by hectare for the past four financial years.
- That the answer be provided within seven calendar days.

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence sent:

- 21 September 2010 – Letters from, the Secretariat requesting answers to Budget Estimates questions on notice by 5 pm Tuesday, 12 October 2010 to:
 - Minister Lynch – Industrial Relations, Commerce, Energy, Public Sector Reform and Aboriginal Affairs
 - Minister Costa – Water and Corrective Services
- 22 September 2010 – Letters from, the Secretariat requesting answers to Budget Estimates questions on notice by 5 pm Wednesday, 13 October 2010, to:
 - Minister Sartor – Climate Change and Environment and Cancer
 - Minister Whan – Primary Industries, Emergency Services and Rural Affairs.

5. Publication of tabled documents

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Westwood: That the Committee accept and publish, according to section 4 of the Parliamentary Papers (Supplementary Provisions) Act 1975 and Standing Order 223(1), the document tendered by Minister Sartor on Friday 17 September 2010 entitled "Annual Visits to PWG Managed Parks in New South Wales – Final Report", dated April 2009.

6. Budget Estimates supplementary hearings

The Committee resolved on 16 September 2010 (afternoon hearing) to hold no further hearings to consider matters relating to the portfolios of Primary Industry, Emergency Services and Rural Affairs, which were the portfolios heard in that hearing.

Mr Colless moved: That the Committee hold a further hearing in relation to the portfolios of climate change and the environment

Question put

The Committee divided

Ayes: Mr Colless, Mr Lynn

Noes: Ms Cotsis, Mr Foley, Mr Cohen, Mr Brown, Ms Westwood.

Question resolved in the negative

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Brown: That the Committee hold no further hearings in relation to the Budget Estimates.

7. **Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 1.55 pm *sine die*

Beverly Duffy

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No 55

Thursday 11 November 2010

General Purpose Standing Committee No 5

Members Lounge, Parliament House, Sydney, at 1.05 pm

1. **Members present**

Mr Ian Cohen (Chair)

Mr Rick Colless (Deputy Chair)

Mr Robert Brown

Mr Tony Catanzariti

Ms Sophie Cotsis (Westwood)

Mr Charlie Lynn

Mr Luke Foley

2. **Substitute members**

The Chair advised that he had received written advice that the following members would be substituting for the purposes of this hearing:

- Ms Cotsis to substitute for Ms Westwood

3. **Minutes**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Brown: That draft Minutes No 54 be confirmed.

4. **Correspondence**

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence sent:

- 26 October 2010 – Letter from the Secretariat to Minister Whan requesting answer to Budget Estimates question on notice 19(b) for the Emergency Services portfolio.

5. **Budget Estimates 2010-2011: Chair's draft report**

The Chair's tabled his draft report number 33 entitled Budget Estimates 2010-2011, which having been previously circulated, was taken as being read.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Catanzariti: That the draft report be the report of the Committee.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Catanzariti: That the Committee present the report to the House, together with transcripts of evidence, submissions, tabled documents, answers to questions on notice, minutes of proceedings and correspondence relating to the Inquiry.

6. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 1.07 pm *sine die*

The Chair expressed his thanks to the Committee and the Secretariat for the ongoing support and hard work they had provided for the Committee's inquiries over the current Parliament.

The Committee members expressed their thanks to the Chair for his leadership of the Committee during the current Parliament.

Rachel Simpson
Clerk to the Committee