



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 4

Budget Estimates 2021-2022

Report 53

June 2022

4



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Portfolio Committee No. 4 - Customer Service and Natural Resources

Budget Estimates 2021-2022

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Budget Estimates 2021-2022.

"June 2022"

Chair: Hon. Mark Banasiak, MLC.



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Terms of reference

1. That the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2021-2022 presenting the amounts to be appropriated from the Consolidated Fund be referred to the Portfolio Committees for inquiry and report.
2. That, further to the resolution of the House of 11 November 2020 adopting the 2021 sitting calendar, the 2021-2022 initial budget estimates hearings be scheduled as follows:

Day One: Monday 16 August 2021

PC 5 Counter Terrorism and Corrections
PC 7 Planning and Public Spaces

Day Two: Tuesday 17 August 2021

PC 2 Health and Medical Research
PC 1 Special Minister of State, Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs and the Arts

Day Three: Wednesday 18 August 2021

PC 3 Education and Early Childhood Learning
PC 4 Agriculture and Western New South Wales
PC 1 The Legislature

Day Four: Thursday 19 August 2021

PC 7 Local Government
PC 2 Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women

Day Five: Friday 20 August 2021

PC 1 Treasury
PC 6 Customer Service and Digital

Day Six: Monday 23 August 2021

PC 7 Energy and Environment
PC 5 Attorney General and Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence

Day Seven: Tuesday 24 August 2021

PC 1 Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney
PC 6 Regional Transport and Roads

Day Eight: Wednesday 25 August 2021

PC 3 Skills and Tertiary Education
PC 5 Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans

Day Nine: Thursday 26 August 2021

PC 6 Transport and Roads
PC 1 Premier

Day Ten: Friday 27 August 2021
 PC 4 Water, Property and Housing
 PC 5 Families, Communities and Disability Services

Day Eleven: Monday 30 August 2021
 PC 6 Better Regulation and Innovation
 PC 4 Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade

Day Twelve: Tuesday 31 August 2021
 PC 5 Police and Emergency Services
 PC 1 Finance and Small Business

3. That for the purposes of the Budget Estimates inquiry 2021-2022:
- (a) for each scheduled day of the initial and further rounds of hearings:
 - (i) each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm, and from 2.00 pm to 5.45 pm, with an additional 15 minutes reserved for government questions for each of the morning and afternoon sessions,
 - (ii) the portfolio of The Legislature be examined concurrently by Opposition, Crossbench and Government members from 9.30 am until 12.30 pm,
 - (b) the committees must hear evidence in public,
 - (c) the committees may ask for explanations from ministers, parliamentary secretaries or officers of departments, statutory bodies or corporations, relating to the items of proposed expenditure,
 - (d) witnesses, including ministers, may not make an opening statement before the committee commences questions,
 - (e) members may lodge supplementary questions with the committee clerk by 5.00 pm within two business days following a hearing, and
 - (f) answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions are to be published, except those answers for which confidentiality is requested, after they have been circulated to committee members.
4. That the committees present a final report to the House by 30 June 2022.

The terms of reference were referred to the committee by the Legislative Council on 23 June 2021.¹

¹ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 23 June 2021, pp 2348-2349. The Terms of reference were further amended - *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 12 October 2021, pp 2401-2404; *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 14 October 2021, p 2488; *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 21 October 2021, p 2579; *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 16 November 2021, p 2713; *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 23 February 2022, pp 2969-2970; *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 29 March 2022, pp 3121-3122; *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 30 March 2022, p 3146.

Committee details

Committee members

The Hon Mark Banasiak MLC	Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party	<i>Chair</i>
The Hon Emma Hurst MLC	Animal Justice Party	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
The Hon Scott Barrett MLC	The Nationals	
The Hon Taylor Martin MLC	Liberal Party	
The Hon Peter Poulos MLC	Liberal Party	
The Hon Peter Primrose MLC	Australian Labor Party	
The Hon Mick Veitch MLC	Australian Labor Party	

Non-substantive members who attended the hearings

Ms Abigail Boyd MLC	The Greens
Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC	The Greens
The Hon Wes Fang MLC	The Nationals
The Hon Sam Farraway MLC	The Nationals
Mr Justin Field MLC	Independent
The Hon John Graham MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon Courtney Houssos MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon Rose Jackson MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon Mark Pearson MLC	Animal Justice Party
The Hon Adam Searle MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC	Australian Labor Party
Mr David Shoebridge MLC	The Greens

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Chair's foreword

I am pleased to present this report on the Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022. 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 Legislative Council.

Portfolio Committee No. 4 is responsible for the scrutiny of the following portfolio areas:

- Agriculture and Western NSW
- Customer Service and Digital Government
- Lands and Water, Hospitality and Racing
- Small Business and Fair Trading

The key evidence gathering mechanism of this Inquiry is through the conduct of public hearings. This report lists the key issues raised during the hearings. Transcripts, tabled documents and additional answers provided after the hearings are published on the [Inquiry's webpage](#).

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 and the secretariat staff for their contributions to the inquiry process.



Hon Mark Banasiak MLC
Chair

Chapter 1 Introduction

The Inquiry into Budget Estimates is one of the key mechanisms for parliamentary committees to scrutinise government expenditure, performance and effectiveness. It holds ministers and government officials to account and provides a greater level of transparency to the public.

The Inquiry is conducted annually by the Legislative Council's Portfolio Committees. Each committee examines the budget estimates of its responsible portfolios, with ministers and senior public servants as the primary witnesses. The evidence taking process of the Inquiry consists of answers provided during public hearings and answers to post-hearing written questions (known as supplementary questions). There is no provision for written submissions.

Budget Estimates 2021-2022

- 1.1 On 11 November 2020 the House resolved that for the purposes of the Budget Estimates inquiry 2021-2022, initial hearings be scheduled over 12 days from 16 August to 20 August 2021, 23 August to 27 August 2021, and 30 to 31 August 2021, and that supplementary hearings be scheduled over five days from 25 October to 29 October 2021.²
- 1.2 The Budget Estimates resolution and schedule was subsequently agreed to by the House on 23 June 2021, referring the Budget Estimates and related papers for 2021-2022 to the Portfolio Committees for inquiry and report.² The budget estimates resolution establishing the Inquiry, which sets out the rules for the Inquiry, is reproduced on pages iv and v.
- 1.3 However, upon nearing the commencement of the initial hearings, the impact of the Delta variant of the Covid 19 virus was being felt through the community, and members of the Legislative Council agreed to defer the initial round of hearings and replace it with fully virtual hearings for eight key portfolio areas. These were: Premier, Treasury, Health, Customer Service and Digital, Education and Early Childhood Learning, Regional NSW, Industry and Trade, Police, and Transport and Roads. The House subsequently retrospectively resolved these arrangements on Tuesday 12 October 2021.³ On the same day, the House also resolved to hold supplementary hearings over 9 days commencing 26 October 2021.⁴
- 1.4 In November 2021, the House resolved that for the purposes of the Budget Estimates inquiry 2021-2022 additional hearings be scheduled over 12 days from 28 February to 4 March 2022, 7 March to 11 March 2022, and 14 March to 15 March 2022.⁵ The House subsequently resolved to hold the hearings over 13 days, commencing 28 February.⁶ Due to significant flooding events affecting northern New South Wales occurring during this time, three hearings – Deputy Premier, Regional NSW and Police, Premier, and Emergency Services and Resilience were postponed. On 29 March 2022 the House resolved new hearing dates for these portfolios, and

² *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 11 November 2020, p 1547; *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 23 June 2021, p 2349.

³ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 12 October 2021, p 2401.

⁴ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 12 October 2021, p 2402.

⁵ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 16 November 2021, p 2713.

⁶ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 23 February 2022, p 2970.

also authorised each of the Portfolio Committees to hold further additional budget estimate hearings up to 30 May 2022.⁷

Hearings

1.5 The committee held 8 public hearings as follows:

- Monday 30 August 2021 – Regional NSW, Industry and Trade
- Monday 1 November 2021 - Agriculture, Western New South Wales
- Wednesday 3 November 2021 – Regional New South Wales
- Friday 5 November 2021 – Water, Property and Housing
- Monday 7 March 2022 – Customer Service and Digital Government
- Wednesday 9 March 2022 – Lands and Water, Hospitality and Racing
- Friday 11 March 2022 – Small Business, Fair Trading
- Tuesday 15 March 2022 – Agriculture, Western New South Wales

Transcripts, questions on notice and supplementary questions

1.6 Transcripts of the hearings, questions taken on notice, supplementary questions and answers to these questions are available on the Budget Estimates web page at: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/budgetestimates.

⁷ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 29 March 2022, p 3121.

Chapter 2 Issues raised during hearings

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

Regional NSW, Industry and Trade

2.1 A hearing examining the portfolio of Regional NSW, Industry and Trade was held on Monday 30 August 2021. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- Australian Clay Target Association grant
- Monaro Farming Systems contract
- Log supply agreements
- Resources Regulator enforcement activities
- Resources for Regions funding and compliance
- Investment in alternative protein sector
- Profit rate from logging native forests
- Recruitment, salary, performance and international office locations for Agent General program and Senior Trade and Investment Commissioners
- Approval of koala plans of management
- Bait supplies to address the mouse plague
- Seasonal agricultural workforce issues
- Government's COVID-19 response in regional NSW.

Agriculture and Western New South Wales

2.2 A hearing examining the portfolio of Agriculture and Western New South Wales was held on Monday 1 November 2021. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- mouse plague and associated funding, including for genetic control
- Minister Marshall's ministerial diary disclosures, particularly between 1 January and 30 June 2021
- Animal Welfare Action Plan and proposed legislation
- animal welfare issues, including:
 - measurement of psychological suffering
 - animal experimentation, including of mice
 - animal hoarding

- the assessment of a 'fit and proper person' under the *Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986*
- use of shark nets
- puppy farming, including in Murray River Council
- shootings of dogs and puppies in Bourke Shire Council
- calf roping and rodeos
- a veterinarian course involving the killing of 12 sheep
- draft standards and guidelines for poultry
- protection of koalas
- private native forestry harvesting
- review of the Private Native Forestry Codes of Practice
- land clearing rates associated with the Land Management (Native Vegetation) Code
- staffing levels within the Department of Primary Industries, and associated reporting
- NSW Government communications with anglers
- Batemans Bay Marine Park management plan
- agricultural workforce needs, including:
 - Pacific Islander workforce
 - harvest leave for Department of Primary Industries and Department of Regional NSW staff
 - NSW Farmers 10-point plan
 - training of shearers and harvest operators
 - hotel quarantine subsidy
- planning associated with the COVID-19 outbreaks in regional areas
- harvest strategies for fisheries, including for the dusky flathead and eastern rock lobster
- biosecurity issues, including:
 - escape of racoons at a port
 - a Hendra virus outbreak in Newcastle
 - a tick experiment performed on dogs
 - Commonwealth funding contributions
 - carp management using the herpes virus
- climate change, economic impacts and departmental expenditure associated with pests and weeds
- agricultural research, including departmental investment to reach 2030 goals
- funding from the Recreational Fishing Trust
- preparation for future droughts
- replenishment of fish stocks following fish kills in 2019, including Murray Cod.

2.3 A hearing examining the portfolio of Agriculture and Western New South Wales was held on Tuesday 15 March 2022. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- Cultural fishing under the Fisheries Act
- Japanese encephalitis virus
- Greyhound surgical insemination
- Weed and pest management, including the use of firearms for pest management
- Post-fire harvesting of forests and sustainable yield
- Native Title and rural land ownership
- Harvest Leave initiative at Regional NSW
- Water biosecurity relating to Snowy 2.0
- Impact of Ukraine conflict on farming costs
- Southern Fish Trawl transition
- Impact of floods on oyster growers
- Support for animals in northern New South Wales floods
- Access to vets in regional New South Wales
- Kurnell-La Perouse ferry route and recreational fishing
- Monitoring mosquito-borne viruses
- First Nations rights relating to travelling stock routes
- Logging by Forestry Corporation
- Grants provided to the RSPCA
- Management and oversight of New South Wales marine parks
- Grant provided to Monaro Farming Systems
- Rodeo events and animal safety
- Pacific Islanders temporary agricultural workforce
- Training of shearers
- Use of SMART drumlines for shark control.

Regional New South Wales

2.4 A hearing examining the portfolio of Regional New South Wales was held on Wednesday 3 November 2021. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- Process and review of grant funding and distribution

- Regional Housing Package
- Tamworth Intermodal Freight Facility
- Regional Housing Taskforce
- Wood supply agreements
- Agricultural workforce
- Jobs, job losses and job relocations within regional New South Wales
- Mouse bait/rebate program
- Annuity and crop share hardwood plantations
- Funding allocation to regional New South Wales and job creation
- Far West Regional Emergency Management Plan.

Water, Property and Housing

2.5 A hearing examining the portfolio of Water, Property and Housing was held on Friday 5 November 2021. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- Crown cemeteries (role of faith based organisations, administration)
- Social housing and animal friendly properties
- Exclusion fencing
- Matrix Constructions
- The 11th Hour report
- Valuer General
- Control of wild pigs on public lands
- Review of Crown Land Management Act 2016
- Dams and water projects
- Micro-dosing in water supply
- Wyangala and Dungowan dams
- Macquarie Floodplains Plan
- Healthy Floodplains Review Committee
- Infrastructure and sewage facilities in Austral
- Water restrictions
- Water Resource Plans.

Customer Service and Digital Government

2.6 A hearing examining the portfolio of Customer Service and Digital Government was held on Monday 7 March 2022. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- Procurement of the Park'n Pay solution
- Application of GIPA Act to approved charitable organisations under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979
- Review of animal rehoming practices and the companion animal registry
- Recovery plans for the flood-affected Service NSW facility in Lismore
- Trial of digital ID cards
- Fee waivers for flood-affected Service NSW customers
- Monopoly in land registry services
- Interoperability for electronic conveyancing
- Funding for Park'n Pay
- QR data breach in September 2021
- Introduction of new rules for holders of international drivers licences in NSW
- The Smart Places Strategy guidelines and funding eligibility
- Administration of the flood recovery grants program
- Proposed repeal of section 19B of the Workers Compensation Act
- Digital drivers licences in NSW
- Proposal to replace stamp duty with an annual tax on homes
- Delivery of new Service NSW centres
- Test and isolate payments
- Processing of COVID-19 microbusiness grants
- Deployment of Service NSW buses to Northern Rivers/North Coast
- Government commitment to build further data centres
- Information sharing requirements of the Park'n Pay application
- Remaining funding and redemption rate for Dine & Discover vouchers
- Eligibility of foster parents for Parents NSW vouchers
- The export assistance grant
- Backlog of diver testing appointments
- NSW Cyber Security Policy (Essential 8).

Lands and Water, Hospitality and Racing

2.7 A hearing examining the portfolio of Lands and Water, Hospitality and Racing was held on Monday 9 March 2022. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- Delays to sewerage connections in south-western Sydney
- Welfare of greyhounds during races
- Cemetery planning and management, including the use of Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust funds
- Dungowan, Warragamba, Mole River and Wyangala dam projects
- Blackstone bid to purchase Crown casino
- Floodplain harvesting licences, sustainable diversion limits and expenditure for sustainable diversion limit adjustment measures projects
- Wellbeing of staff working with the Valuer-General
- Gambling harm minimisation, cashless gaming and digital gaming wallets
- Better Baaka and Better Bidgee water programs
- Bergin inquiry recommendations, including establishment of an independent casino commission
- Stormwater management
- Crown Lands Commissioner position
- Aboriginal water strategy
- Response to the Independent Commission Against Corruption's inquiry into water management
- Water resource plans.

Small Business and Fair Trading

2.8 A hearing examining the portfolio of Small Business and Fair Trading was held on Friday 11 March 2022. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- Progress of flammable cladding taskforce (Project Remediate): drop out of owners from the project, reasons for drop out
- Scams and consumer protections relating to elevated interest in companion animals during COVID
- SafeWork NSW: lines of reporting, number of inspectors, vacancies, allocation of case loads
- Retirement villages, enforcement and compliance with relevant legislation, desktop audits vs on-site engagement

- Governance of SafeWork NSW, number of executive directors, relation to other regulators including OLGR and Fair Trading
- Regulation of housing development, consumer protections for single story dwellings, voluntary ratings systems.
- Extension of the Paintball Act 2018 to include other sporting devices, such as airsoft and gel blasters.

Appendix 1 Witnesses at hearings

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
Monday 30 August 2021 Virtual hearing via videoconference	Mr Gary Barnes	Secretary, Department of Regional NSW
	Mr Scott Hansen	Director General, Department of Primary Industries
	Mr Anshul Chaudhary	Chief Executive Officer, Forestry Corporation
	Ms Georgina Beattie	Deputy Secretary, Mining, Exploration and Geoscience, Department of Regional NSW
	Ms Amy Brown	Chief Executive Officer, Investment NSW
	Ms Rebecca Fox	Deputy Secretary, Regional Precincts, Department of Regional NSW
Monday 1 November 2021 Macquarie Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Adam Marshall MP	Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales
	Mr Scott Hansen	Director General, Department of Primary Industries
	Mr David Witherdin	Chief Executive Officer, Local Land Services
	Mr Gary Barnes	Secretary, Department of Regional NSW (<i>via Webex</i>)
	Mr Daryl Quinlivan	NSW Agriculture Commissioner (<i>via Webex</i>)
	Dr John Tracey	Deputy Director General, Biosecurity and Food Safety, Department of Primary Industries (<i>via Webex</i>)
	Mr Sean Sloan	Deputy Director General, Fisheries, Department of Primary Industries (<i>via Webex</i>)

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
	Dr Kim Filmer	Chief Animal Welfare Officer, NSW Department of Primary Industries (<i>via Webex</i>)
	Ms Suzanne Robinson	Acting Director Animal Welfare, Department of Primary Industries (<i>via Webex</i>)
Wednesday 3 November 2021 Macquarie Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Paul Toole MP	Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales and Minister for Regional Transport and Roads
	Mr Scott Hansen	Director General, Department of Primary Industries
	Mr Gary Barnes	Secretary, Department of Regional NSW
	Mr Anshul Chaudhary	Chief Executive Officer, Forestry Corporation (<i>via Webex</i>)
	Ms Georgina Beattie	Deputy Secretary, Mining, Exploration and Geoscience, Department of Regional NSW (<i>via Webex</i>)
	Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons	Commissioner, Resilience NSW (<i>via Webex</i>)
	Mr Chris Hanger	Deputy Secretary, Public Works Advisory and Regional Development Group, Department of Regional NSW (<i>via Webex</i>)
	Ms Fiona Dewar	Acting Deputy Secretary, Strategy Delivery & Performance, Department of Regional NSW (<i>via Webex</i>)
	Ms Rebecca Fox	Deputy Secretary, Regional Precincts, Department of Regional NSW (<i>via Webex</i>)

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
Friday 5 November 2021 Jubilee Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Melinda Pavey MP	Minister for Water, Property and Housing
	Ms Kiersten Fishburn	Acting Secretary, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
	Mr Michael Wright	Group Deputy Secretary, Housing and Property, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
	Ms Melanie Hawyes	Deputy Secretary, Crown Lands, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (<i>via Webex</i>)
	Mr Michael Cassel	Chief Executive Officer, Land and Housing Corporation, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (<i>via Webex</i>)
	Mr Leon Walker	Deputy Secretary, Property and Development NSW, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (<i>via Webex</i>)
	Ms Jen Hickey	Chief Executive Officer, Cemeteries & Crematoria NSW (<i>via Webex</i>)
	Ms Alison McLaren	Executive Director, Business Performance, Valuer General of NSW (<i>via Webex</i>)
	Dr Jim Bentley	Deputy Secretary, Water, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
	Mr Andrew George	Chief Executive Officer, WaterNSW (<i>via Webex</i>)
Mr Roch Cheroux	Managing Director, Sydney Water (<i>via Webex</i>)	

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
	Mr Darren Cleary	Managing Director, Hunter Water (<i>via Webex</i>)
	Mr Grant Barnes	Chief Regulatory Officer, Natural Resources Access Regulator (<i>via Webex</i>)
	Ms Amanda Jones	Chief Strategy Officer, Water, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (<i>via Webex</i>)
	Ms Anissa Levy	Chief Executive Officer, Water Infrastructure NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (<i>via Webex</i>)
Monday 7 March 2022 Macquarie Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Victor Dominello MP	Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government
	Ms Emma Hogan	Secretary, Department of Customer Service
	Mr Adam Dent	Chief Executive Officer, State Insurance Regulatory Authority, Department of Customer Service
	Mr Greg Wells	Deputy Secretary, Digital.NSW, Department of Customer Service
	Mr Damon Rees	Chief Executive Officer, Service NSW, Department of Customer Service
	Ms Mandy Young	Chief Operating Officer, Department of Customer Service
	Ms William Murphy	Deputy Secretary, Customer, Delivery and Transformation
	Ms Elizabeth Tydd	NSW Information Commissioner
	Ms Samantha Gavel	NSW Privacy Commissioner

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
	Ms Liz Livingstone	Chief Executive Officer, Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
Wednesday 9 March 2022 Macquarie Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Kevin Anderson MP	Minister for Lands and Water, Hospitality and Racing
	Dr Jim Bentley	CEO NSW Water Sector, Department of Planning & Environment
	Mr Michael Wright	Deputy Secretary, Department of Planning & Environment
	Mr Steve Griffin	CEO, Greyhound Welfare Integrity Commission
	Mr Terry O'Brien	Director, Office of Racing
	Ms Natasha Mann	Fair Trading Commissioner/Deputy Secretary, Department of Customer Service
	Ms Melanie Hawyes	Deputy Secretary, Department of Planning & Environment
	Mr John Tansey	Executive Director, Policy and Strategy, Better Regulation Division, Department of Customer Service
	Ms Amanda Jones	CEO Water Infrastructure, Department of Planning & Environment
	Mr Grant Barnes	Chief Regulatory Officer, Natural Resources Access Regulator
	Mr Andrew George	CEO, WaterNSW
	Mr Roch Cheroux	Managing Director, Sydney Water
	Mr Darren Cleary	Managing Director, Hunter Water

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
	Ms Jen Hickey	CEO, Cemeteries & Crematoria NSW
	Mr Phillip Crawford	Chairman, Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority
Friday 11 March 2022 Jubilee Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Eleni Petinos MP	Minister for Small Business and Fair Trading
	Hon Lou Amato MLC	Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business
	Ms Emma Hogan	Secretary, Department of Customer Service
	Ms Chris Lamont	Small Business Commissioner, Small Business Commission
	Ms Natasha Mann	Fair Trading Commissioner; Deputy Secretary, Better Regulation, Department of Customer Service (<i>via Webex</i>)
	Mr John Tansey	Executive Director, Policy & Strategy, Department of Customer Service
	Mr David Chandler	Building Commissioner, Department of Customer Service
	Mr Tony Williams	Executive Director, Compliance and Dispute Resolution, Department of Customer Service
	Ms Meagan McCool	Director, Construction Services Group, Metropolitan, SafeWork NSW, Department of Customer Service
	Mr Michael Gadiel	Executive Director, Economic Strategy, NSW Treasury

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
Tuesday 15 March 2022 Macquarie Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Dugald Saunders MP	Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales
	Mr Scott Hansen	Director General, Department of Primary Industries
	Mr Gary Barnes	Secretary, Department of Regional NSW (<i>via Webex</i>)
	Mr Anshul Chaudhary	Chief Executive Officer, Forestry Corporation
	Mr Steve Orr	Chief Executive Officer, Local Land Services
	Mr Adam Tyndall	Director, Policy & Reform, Local Land Services
	Dr John Tracey	Deputy Director General, Biosecurity & Food Safety, Primary Industries
	Mr Sean Sloan	Deputy Director General, Fisheries, Primary Industries
	Mr Daryl Quinlivan	NSW Agriculture Commissioner, Primary Industries
	Dr Kim Filmer	Chief Animal Welfare Officer, Primary Industries
	Mr David McPherson	Deputy Director General, Forestry & Land Reform, Primary Industries
	Mr Rob Kelly	Executive Director, Regional Operations, Local Land Services
	Mr Jonathan Wheaton	Executive Director, Regional Development, Regional NSW
Ms Suzanne Robinson	Acting Director, Animal Welfare, NSW Department of Primary Industries	

Appendix 2 Minutes

Minutes no. 41

Tuesday 6 July 2021

Portfolio Committee No. 4 - Industry

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney and via videoconference at 9.41 am

1. Members present

Mr Banasiak, *Chair*

Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair (via videoconference, until 9.52 am)*

Ms Faehrmann (*substituting for Ms Hurst for the duration of the inquiry into the Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021 (via videoconference, from 9.55 am until 11.30 am)*)

Mr Farraway (*via videoconference*)

Mr Field (*substituting for Ms Hurst for the duration of the inquiry into the long term sustainability and future of the timber and forest products industry and the inquiry into the Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021 (via videoconference)*)

Mr Martin (*via videoconference*)

Mr Poulos (*via videoconference*)

Mr Primrose (*via videoconference*)

Mr Veitch (*via videoconference*)

Ms Boyd (*participating for the duration of the Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021 (via videoconference, from 9.50 am until 12.21pm)*)

2. Committee membership

The committee noted that the Hon Taylor Martin replaced the Hon Catherine Cusack on the committee from 20 May 2021; and the Hon Peter Poulos replaced the Hon Lou Amato on the committee from 20 May 2021.

3. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That draft minutes no. 40 be confirmed.

4. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received:

- 26 March 2021 - Email from Ms Tess Vickery, Office of the Hon Emma Hurst, to secretariat, advising that Mr Field will be substituting for Ms Hurst for the duration of the inquiry into the long term sustainability and future of the timber and forest products
- 13 May 2021 - Letter from the Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones, Government Whip, to secretariat, advising that Mr Poulos will be substituting for Mr Amato for the duration of the inquiry into the long term sustainability and future of the timber and forest products
- 7 June 2021 - Email from the Hon Catherine Cusack to the committee, forwarding a copy of a public BAEconomics report provided to her for the purposes of the timber and forest products inquiry by a member of the public
- 13 June 2021 - Email from Mr Michael Ross to Chair, asking the committee to consider past private afforestation efforts as part of the timber and forest products inquiry and requesting an opportunity to provide further input
- 23 June 2021 - Correspondence from Mr Simon Moore, NSW Business Chamber, to the secretariat, attaching the report *Running on empty: How to keep NSW fuelled for the future*
- 30 June 2021 - Email from Mr Ashley Wells, Director - Government Relations, Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association to secretariat, declining the committee's invitation to attend the hearing for the inquiries into the Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition)

Bill 2021 and the Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021

- 30 June 2021 - Email from Ms Ksenya Belousova, Manager - Corporate, Government and Community Affairs, Whitehaven Coal to secretariat, declining the committee's invitation to attend the hearing for the inquiries into the Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021 and the Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021
- 30 June 2021 - Email from Mr Dale Aaskow, Chief Operating Officer, Comet Ridge Limited to secretariat, declining the committee's invitation to attend the hearing for the inquiries into the Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021 and the Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021
- 30 June 2021 - Email from Mr Keld Knudsen, Senior Government Affairs Adviser, Santos to secretariat, declining the committee's invitation to attend the hearing for the inquiries into the Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021 and the Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021, and offering to provide further written responses to additional questions from the committee
- 1 July 2021 - Email from Ms Harriet Whyte, Executive Director, Department of Regional New South Wales, declining the committee's invitation to attend the hearing for the inquiries into the Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021 and the Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021, and requesting that the department make a late submission.

5. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 - procedural resolutions

The committee noted the Budget Estimates timetable for 2021-2022 agreed to by the House, with hearings commencing at 9.30 am and concluding by 6.00 pm, for Portfolio Committee No. 4:

Date	Portfolio
Wednesday 18 August 2021	Agriculture and Western New South Wales (Marshall)
Friday 27 August 2021	Water, Property and Housing (Pavey)
Monday 30 August 2021	Deputy Premier, Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade (Barilaro)

5.1 Allocation of question time and total hearing time

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 resolution each portfolio, except The Legislature, will be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm, and from 2.00 pm to 5.45 pm, with an additional 15 minutes reserved for government questions for each of the morning and afternoon sessions.

5.2 Witness requests

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That the committee invite the following witnesses:

Agriculture and Western New South Wales

- Mr Scott Hansen, Director General, Department of Primary Industries
- Mr Gary Barnes, Secretary, Department of Regional NSW
- Mr Darryl Quinlivan, NSW Agriculture Commissioner
- Mr David Witherdin, Chief Executive Officer, Local Land Services
- Dr John Tracey, Deputy Director General, Biosecurity and Food Safety, Department of Primary Industries
- Mr Sean Sloan, Deputy Director General, Fisheries, Department of Primary Industries
- Dr Kim Filmer, Chief Animal Welfare Officer, NSW Department of Primary Industries
- Ms Suzanne Robinson, Acting Director Animal Welfare, NSW Department of Primary Industries.

Water, Property and Housing

- Mr Jim Betts, Secretary, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
- Dr Jim Bentley, Deputy Secretary, Water, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
- Prof Richard Bush, Crown Lands Commissioner, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
- Mr Andrew George, Acting Chief Executive Officer, WaterNSW
- Mr Roch Cheroux, Managing Director, Sydney Water
- Mr Darren Cleary, Managing Director, Hunter Water
- Mr Grant Barnes, Chief Regulatory Officer, Natural Resources Access Regulator
- Mr Michael Wright, Group Deputy Secretary, Housing and Property, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
- Ms Melanie Hawyes, Deputy Secretary, Crown Lands, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
- Mr Michael Cassel, Chief Executive Officer, Land and Housing Corporation, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade

- Mr Gary Barnes, Secretary, Department of Regional NSW
- Mr Scott Hansen, Director General, Department of Primary Industries
- Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons, Commissioner, Resilience NSW
- Mr Anshul Chaudhary, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Forestry Corporation
- Ms Kylie Bell, Executive Director, Industry, Trade and Investment, NSW Treasury
- Ms Georgina Beattie, Deputy Secretary, Mining, Exploration and Geoscience, Department of Regional NSW
- Mr Chris Hanger, Deputy Secretary, Public Works Advisory and Regional Development Group, Department of Regional NSW.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Hurst: That the committee not invite parliamentary secretaries to appear as a witness at the hearings.

5.3 Witness appearance time

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Hurst: That:

- the Minister appear from 9.30 am until 12.45 pm
- departmental staff appear from 9.30 am until 6.00 pm.

6. ***

7. ***

8. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 12.42 pm.

Shaza Barbar / Joseph Cho
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 43

Wednesday 11 August 2021

Portfolio Committee No. 4 - Industry

Via Webex, 9.32 am

1. Members presentMr Banasiak, *Chair*Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Martin

Mr Poulos

Mr Primrose

Mr Veitch

2. Apologies

Mr Farraway

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 19 July 2021 - Email from Ms Pip Ward, Executive Officer, Local Land Services to secretariat, confirming attendance of Mr David Witherdin, Chief Executive Officer, Local Land Services to Agriculture and Western NSW hearing on 18 August 2021
- 22 July 2021 - Email from Ms Bridgette Joyce, Office of Hon John Barilaro MP, Deputy Premier, Regional NSW, Industry and Trade to secretariat, confirming witness list for Budget Estimates 2021-2022 initial hearing on 30 August 2021
- 27 July 2021 - Email from Office of Hon Adam Marshall MP, Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW to secretariat seeking extension until Friday 30 July 2021 to provide witness list
- 30 July 2021 - Email from Ms Imogen Posa, Office of Hon Melinda Pavey MP, Minister for Water, Property and Housing to secretariat, confirming witness list for Budget Estimates 2021-2022 initial hearing on 27 August 2021
- 29 July 2021 - Email from Ms Alysha Hardy, Office of Ms Abigail Boyd MLC, The Greens, advising that Ms Boyd will be a participating member for PCs 2, 3 4, 5 and 7 hearings
- 3 August 2021 - Email from Office of Hon Adam Marshall MP, Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW to secretariat seeking extension until Friday 6 August 2021 to provide witness list.

Sent

- 16 July 2021 - Email from the secretariat to the Hon Melinda Pavey MP, Minister for Water, Property and Housing, attaching witness invitation for Budget Estimates 2021-2022 - Initial Hearings
- 16 July 2021 - Email from the secretariat to the Hon Adam Marshall MP, Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW, attaching witness invitation for Budget Estimates 2021-2022 - Initial Hearings
- 16 July 2021 - Email from the secretariat to the Hon John Barilaro MP, Deputy Premier, Regional NSW, Industry and Trade, attaching witness invitation for Budget Estimates 2021-2022 - Initial Hearings
- 28 July 2021 - Email from the secretariat to Office of Hon Adam Marshall MP, Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW, granting extension until Friday 30 July 2021 to provide witness list
- 5 August 2021 - Email from the secretariat to Office of Hon Adam Marshall MP, Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW, granting extension until Friday 6 August 2021 to provide witness list.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022

4.1 Postponement of scheduled hearings 16-31 August 2021

The committee noted:

- the public health concerns around the COVID-19 Delta variant and current Public Health Orders in Greater Sydney
- that agreement has been reached amongst Members of the Legislative Council that, as a matter of necessity, on the next sitting a motion will be moved by leave and agreed to postponing until a date to be determined the in-person budget estimates hearings scheduled for 16-31 August 2021
- the importance of ongoing parliamentary accountability and scrutiny of the executive government
- that agreement has therefore also been reached on a series of fully virtual preliminary budget estimates hearings to be held with public servant witnesses from eight portfolios.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Martin: That the committee postpone the following Budget Estimates 2021-2022 hearings:

- Wednesday 18 August 2021 – Agriculture and Western New South Wales (Marshall)
- Friday 27 August 2021 – Water, Property and Housing (Pavey)
- Monday 30 August 2021 – Deputy Premier, Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade (Barilaro).

4.2 Revised Budget Estimates 2021-2022 timetable - virtual hearing

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That the committee hold the following preliminary Budget Estimates hearings in a fully virtual format:

- Monday 30 August 2021 - Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade (Barilaro).

4.3 Allocation of question time and total hearing time

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Poulos: That the portfolios of Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only from 9.30 am until 11.00 am, and then from 11.15 am until 12.45 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions at the end of the session, if required.

4.4 Witnesses to appear at hearings

The committee noted the limit of 4 witnesses per hearing to assist Hansard and the transcription of evidence.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That the committee invite the following witnesses to give evidence at the hearing for the portfolios of the Regional NSW, Industry and Trade:

For duration of hearing

- Mr Gary Barnes, Secretary, Department of Regional NSW
- Mr Scott Hansen, Director General, Department of Primary Industries

From 9.30 am until 11.00 am

- Mr Anshul Chaudhary, Chief Executive Officer, Forestry Corporation
- Ms Georgina Beattie, Deputy Secretary, Mining, Exploration and Geoscience, Department of Regional NSW

From 11.15 am until 1.00 pm

- Ms Kylie Bell, Executive Director, Industry, Trade and Investment, Investment NSW
- Ms Rebecca Fox, Deputy Secretary, Regional Precincts, Department of Regional NSW.

4.5 Livestream and recording of hearing

The committee to note that the hearing will be livestreamed via the Parliament's YouTube channel.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Hurst: That the committee agree to record the hearing, and that this recording be placed on the inquiry webpage as soon as practicable after the hearing.

4.6 Virtual committee guidelines and procedural fairness

The committee noted the DPS Virtual Committee Guidelines and that, to help ensure that Hansard can transcribe the hearing, witnesses and/or members should avoid speaking over each other.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 9.43 am, until 9.15 am, on Monday 30 August 2021 via Webex, Budget Estimates hearing — Regional NSW, Industry and Trade.

Emma Rogerson

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 44

Monday 30 August 2021

Portfolio Committee No. 4 - Industry

Via Webex at 9.17 am

1. Members present

Mr Banasiak, *Chair*

Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Farraway

Mr Martin

Mr Poulos

Mr Primrose

Mr Veitch

Ms Boyd (*participating*)

Ms Faehrmann (*participating from 9.32 am*)

Mr Field (*participating until 10.07 am*)

Mr Graham (*participating*)

Mr Searle (*participating*)

Ms Sharpe (*participating*)

Mr Shoebridge (*participating from 9.19 am*)

2. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That draft minutes no. 43 be confirmed.

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 12 August 2021 - Email from Mr Nat Openshaw, Office of Deputy Premier, to the secretariat, requesting the replacement of Ms Kylie Bell, Executive Director, Industry, Trade and Investment, Investment NSW with Ms Amy Brown, Chief Executive Officer, Investment NSW as a witness at the Regional NSW, Industry and Trade hearing on Monday 30 August 2021
- 13 August 2021 - Email from Mr Justin Field MLC to the secretariat, advising he will be a participating member for the PC4 Regional NSW, Industry and Trade hearing on 30 August 2021
- 16 August 2021 - Email from Ms Cara Punch, Office of the Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC, Opposition Whip, to the secretariat, providing Opposition substitutions and participating member advice for preliminary Budget Estimates 2021-2022
- 27 August 2021 - Email from Mr Jacob Miller, Office of Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC advising that Ms Faehrmann will be a participating member for the PC4 Regional NSW, Industry and Trade hearing on 30 August 2021

- 27 August 2021 - Email from Ms Cara Punch, Office of the Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC, Opposition Whip to the secretariat, advising that the Hon John Graham MLC will be a participating member for the PC4 Regional NSW, Industry and Trade hearing on 30 August 2021
- 30 August 2021 - Email from Mr David Shoebridge MLC to the secretariat, advising he will be a participating member for the PC4 Regional NSW, Industry and Trade hearing on 30 August 2021.

Sent

- 11 August 2021 - Email from the secretariat to the Hon John Barilaro MP, Deputy Premier, forwarding witness invitation for preliminary Budget Estimates 2021-2022
- 16 August 2021 - Email from the secretariat to Mr Nat Openshaw, Office of the Deputy Premier, confirming agreement to change of witnesses for the Regional NSW, Industry and Trade hearing on Monday 30 August 2021.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 - preliminary hearings

4.1 Order for examination of portfolios

The committee noted that it had previously resolved that the portfolios of Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 11.00 am, and from 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions at the end of the hearing if required.

4.2 Allocation of questioning

Resolved on the motion of Ms Hurst: That the sequence of questioning at the hearing be divided between opposition and crossbench members, in that order, for 20 minute rounds each, with any remaining time to be split equally.

4.3 Photo of committee for social media

Resolved on the motion of Mr Veitch: That the secretariat take a screenshot of the committee during its meeting and / or the hearing for the purposes of publishing on social media.

4.4 Lodgement of supplementary questions

The committee noted that the transcript of evidence is expected to be available 2 business days after the hearing.

Resolved on the motion of Mr Primrose: That supplementary questions be lodged with the secretariat by 5.00 pm within two business days following receipt of the transcript.

4.5 Public hearing: Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade

The committee proceeded to take evidence in public.

The departmental witnesses were admitted via video link.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings, virtual hearing etiquette and other matters.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Mr Gary Barnes, Secretary, Department of Regional NSW
- Mr Scott Hansen, Director General, Department of Primary Industries
- Mr Anshul Chaudhary, Chief Executive Officer, Forestry Corporation
- Ms Georgina Beattie, Deputy Secretary, Mining, Exploration and Geoscience, Department of Regional NSW.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade open for examination.

The departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

Mr Searle tendered the following documents:

- Copy of Return to Order - Monaro Farming Systems - Email from Ms Kate Lorimer-Ward, dated 19 January 2021
- Copy of Return to Order - Monaro Farming Systems - File note dated 28 January 2021.

The following witnesses withdrew:

- Mr Anshul Chaudhary, Chief Executive Officer, Forestry Corporation
- Ms Georgina Beattie, Deputy Secretary, Mining, Exploration and Geoscience, Department of Regional NSW.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Ms Amy Brown, Chief Executive Officer, Investment NSW
- Ms Rebecca Fox, Deputy Secretary, Regional Precincts, Department of Regional NSW.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 12.47 pm.

4.6 Tendered documents

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Primrose: That the committee accept and publish the following documents tendered during the Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade hearing held on Monday 30 August 2021:

- Copy of Return to Order - Monaro Farming Systems - Email from Ms Kate Lorimer-Ward, dated 19 January 2021, tabled by Mr Adam Searle MLC
- Copy of Return to Order - Monaro Farming Systems - File note dated 28 January 2021, tabled by Mr Adam Searle MLC.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 12.48 pm, until *Sine die*.

Madeleine Dowd

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 47

Wednesday 13 October 2021

Portfolio Committee No. 4 - Regional NSW, Water and Agriculture

McKell Room, Parliament House, 9.30 am

1. Members present

Mr Banasiak, *Chair*

Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Farraway

Mr Martin

Mr Poulos

Mr Primrose

Mr Veitch

2. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That draft minutes nos. 44, 45 and 46 be confirmed.

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Sent

- 6 September 2021 - Email from the secretariat, to Hon John Barilaro MP, Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW, Industry and Trade, forwarding transcript of evidence with questions on notice highlighted and supplementary questions.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022

4.1 Answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions - preliminary hearings

The committee noted the following answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions were published by the committee clerk under the authorisation of the resolution appointing the committee:

- answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from the hon John Barilaro MP, Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW, Industry and Trade, received 27 September 2021
- answers to questions on notice from Mr Gary Barnes, Secretary, Regional NSW, received 27 September 2021.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That the committee keep confidential the answers to questions on notice from Mr Gary Barnes, Secretary Regional NSW, as per the request of the author.

Mr Veitch moved: That the committee authorise the Chair to move a Standing Order 52 Order for Papers in the House for the provision of:

- a) the document entitled "Monaro Farming System and Department of Primary Industries contract for delivery of outreach services"
- b) the letter of engagement from Mr Gary Barnes, Secretary, Department of Regional NSW to General Counsel leading to the creation of the document entitled "Monaro Farming System and Department of Primary Industries contract for delivery of outreach services"
- c) all documents which informed the creation of the document entitled " Monaro Farming System and Department of Primary Industries contract for delivery of outreach services".

Question put.

The committee divided.

Ayes: Mr Banasiak, Ms Hurst, Mr Primrose, Mr Veitch.

Noes: Mr Farraway, Mr Martin, Mr Poulos.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

4.2 Supplementary hearings - procedural resolutions

The committee noted the Budget Estimates supplementary hearings timetable for 2021-2022 agreed to by the House, with hearings commencing at 9.30 am and concluding by 5.30 pm, for Portfolio Committee No. 4:

Date	Portfolio	No. of possible witnesses in person
Monday 1 November 2021	Agriculture and Western New South Wales (Marshall)	3
Wednesday 3 November 2021	Regional New South Wales (Toole)	3

Friday 5 November 2021	Water, Property and Housing (Pavey)	3
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4.3 Allocation of question time and total hearing time

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 resolution the below portfolios will be examined as follows:

- Agriculture and Western New South Wales - by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 11.00 am, and from 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, then from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm, and from 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions at the end of each session, if required.
- Regional New South Wales - by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 11.00 am, and from 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, then from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm, and from 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions at the end of each session, if required.
- Water, Property and Housing - by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm, and from 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions from 5.15 pm to 5.30 pm, if required.

4.4 Witness requests

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That, in addition to the Minister, the committee invite the following witnesses:

WATER, PROPERTY AND HOUSING

Invited to appear from 2.00 pm until 5.30 pm (in person)
Ms Kiersten Fishburn, Acting Secretary, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Dr Jim Bentley, Deputy Secretary, Water, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Invited to appear from 2.00 pm until 3.30 pm (via Webex)
Mr Michael Wright, Group Deputy Secretary, Housing and Property, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Ms Melanie Hawyes, Deputy Secretary, Crown Lands, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Mr Michael Cassel, Chief Executive Officer, Land and Housing Corporation, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Mr Leon Walker, Deputy Secretary, Property & Development NSW, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Invited to appear from 3.45 pm until 5.30 pm (via Webex)
Mr Andrew George, Acting Chief Executive Officer, WaterNSW
Mr Roch Cheroux, Managing Director, Sydney Water
Mr Darren Cleary, Managing Director, Hunter Water
Mr Grant Barnes, Chief Regulatory Officer, Natural Resources Access Regulator

REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES

Invited to appear from 9.30 am until 5.30 pm (in person)
Mr Gary Barnes, Secretary, Department of Regional NSW
Mr Scott Hansen, Director General, Department of Primary Industries
Invited to appear from 2.00 pm until 3.30 pm (via Webex)

Mr Anshul Chaudhary, Chief Executive Officer, Forestry Corporation
Ms Georgina Beattie, Deputy Secretary, Mining, Exploration and Geoscience, Department of Regional NSW
Mr Gavin Burns, Executive Director , NSW Resources Regulator
Invited to appear from 3.45 pm until 5.30 pm (via Webex)
Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons, Commissioner, Resilience NSW
Mr Chris Hanger, Deputy Secretary, Public Works Advisory and Regional Development Group, Department of Regional NSW
Ms Fiona Dewar, Acting Deputy Secretary, Strategy Delivery & Performance, Department of Regional NSW
Ms Rebecca Fox, Deputy Secretary, Regional Precincts, Department of Regional NSW

AGRICULTURE AND WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES

Invited to appear from 9.30 am until 5.30 pm (Minister to nominate who appears alongside him in person)
Mr Scott Hansen, Director General, Department of Primary Industries
Mr Gary Barnes, Secretary, Department of Regional NSW
Mr Darryl Quinlivan, NSW Agriculture Commissioner
Mr David Witherdin, Chief Executive Officer, Local Land Services
Dr John Tracey, Deputy Director General, Biosecurity and Food Safety, Department of Primary Industries
Mr Sean Sloan, Deputy Director General, Fisheries, Department of Primary Industries
Dr Kim Filmer, Chief Animal Welfare Officer, NSW Department of Primary Industries
Ms Suzanne Robinson, Acting Director Animal Welfare, NSW Department of Primary Industries

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That members have until 5pm today, Wednesday 14 October 2021 to advise the secretariat if witnesses from Cemeteries and Crematoria NSW will be required to be invited to attend the Water, Property and Housing hearing on 5 November 2021.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Poulos: That the committee not invite parliamentary secretaries to appear as a witness at the hearings.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 9.50 am, until Monday 1 November 2021, 9.15 am, Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Budget Estimates hearing - Agriculture and Western NSW.

Emma Rogerson
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 48

Monday 1 November 2021

Portfolio Committee No. 4 - Regional NSW, Water and Agriculture

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9.15 am

1. Members presentMr Banasiak, *Chair*Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Farraway

Mr Martin

Mr Poulos

Mr Primrose

Mr Veitch

Mr Borsak (*participating, from 9.53 am to 10.20 am*)Ms Boyd (*participating, until 10.50 am, and from 2.00 pm to 2.43 pm*)Mr Field (*participating via WebEx*)Ms Sharpe (*participating, from 9.54 am to 10.36 am*)**2. Previous minutes**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That draft minutes no. 47 be confirmed.

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 11 October 2021 - Email from Mr Justin Field MLC to the Chair, advising that he will be a participating member for all PC4 Budget Estimates hearings
- 18 October 2021 - Email from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC, to the secretariat, advising that she will be a participating member for the Agriculture and Western New South Wales hearing on 1 November 2021
- 19 October 2021 - Email from Ms Nella Hall, Office of Hon Mark Latham MLC, to the secretariat, advising that Mr Latham will be a participating member for the Water, Property and Housing hearing on 5 November 2021
- 19 October 2021 - Email from Ms Cara Punch, Office of the Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC, Opposition Whip, to the secretariat, providing Opposition substitutions and participating member advice for Budget Estimates 2021-2022 supplementary hearings
- 20 October 2021 - Email from Ms Imogen Posa, Office of Hon Melinda Pavey MP, Minister for Water, Property and Housing, to the secretariat, confirming witnesses for the hearing on 5 November 2021
- 20 October 2021 - Email from Ms Bridgette Joyce, Office of the Hon Paul Toole MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional NSW, to the secretariat, confirming witnesses for the hearing on 3 November 2021
- 22 October 2021 - Email from Mr Connor McGoverne, Office of the Hon Adam Marshall MP, Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW, to the secretariat, confirming witnesses for the hearing on 1 November 2021
- 22 October 2021 - Email from Mr Jacob Miller, Office of Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC, to the Chair, advising that Ms Faehrmann will be a participating member for the Agriculture and Western NSW hearing on 1 November and the Water, Property and Housing hearing on 5 November 2021
- 22 October 2021 - Email from Ms Cara Punch, Office of the Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC, Opposition Whip, to the secretariat, providing updated Opposition substitutions and participating member advice for Budget Estimates 2021-2022 supplementary hearings
- 23 October 2021 - Email from Ms Nella Hall, Office of Hon Mark Latham MLC, to the secretariat, providing updated participation advice for Mr Latham for Budget Estimates 2021-2022 supplementary hearings

- 27 October 2021 - Email from Ms Cara Punch, Office of the Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC, Opposition Whip, to the secretariat, advising that Ms Sharpe will be a participating member for the Agriculture and Western New South Wales hearing on 1 November 2021
- 27 October 2021 - Email from Ms Shani Murphy, Office of the Hon Shayne Mallard MLC, Government Whip, to the secretariat, advising that Mr Fang will be substituting for Mr Martin for the Regional NSW hearing on 3 November 2021.

Sent

- 15 October 2021 - Email from the secretariat to the Hon Adam Marshall MP, Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales, forwarding witness invitation for supplementary Budget Estimates 2021-2022
- 15 October 2021 - Email from the secretariat to the Hon Paul Toole MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales and Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, forwarding witness invitation for supplementary Budget Estimates 2021-2022
- 15 October 2021 - Email from the secretariat to Hon Melinda Pavey MP, Minister for Water, Property and Housing, forwarding witness invitation for supplementary Budget Estimates 2021-2022
- 22 October 2021 - Email from the secretariat to the Hon Adam Marshall MP, Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW, requesting witness nominations for supplementary Budget Estimates 2021-2022.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 - supplementary hearings

4.1 Order for examination of portfolios

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 resolution the portfolio of Agriculture and Western New South Wales, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 12.45 pm, and from 2.00 pm to 5.15 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions at the end of each session, if required.

4.2 Live streaming and recording of hearing

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That the committee publish all recordings of Budget Estimates 2021-2022 supplementary hearings on the Parliament's YouTube channel.

4.3 Public hearing: Agriculture and Western New South Wales

Departmental witnesses were admitted.

The Hon Adam Marshall MP, Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales was admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters. The Chair noted that members of Parliament swear an oath to their office, and therefore do not need to be sworn prior to giving evidence before a committee.

The following witnesses were sworn:

- Mr Scott Hansen, Director General, Department of Primary Industries (in person)
- Mr Gary Barnes, Secretary, Department of Regional NSW (via WebEx)
- Mr Darryl Quinlivan, NSW Agriculture Commissioner (via WebEx)
- Mr David Witherdin, Chief Executive Officer, Local Land Services (in person)
- Dr John Tracey, Deputy Director General, Biosecurity and Food Safety, Department of Primary Industries (via WebEx)
- Mr Sean Sloan, Deputy Director General, Fisheries, Department of Primary Industries (via WebEx)
- Dr Kim Filmer, Chief Animal Welfare Officer, NSW Department of Primary Industries (via WebEx)
- Ms Suzanne Robinson, Acting Director Animal Welfare, NSW Department of Primary Industries (via WebEx)

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Agriculture and Western New South Wales open for examination.

The Minister and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

The Minister withdrew at 12.43 pm.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 5.15 pm.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5.15 pm, until 9.15 am, Wednesday 3 November 2021, Macquarie Room, Budget Estimates hearing — Regional New South Wales.

Shu-Fang Wei

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 49

Friday 5 November 2021

Portfolio Committee No. 4 - Regional NSW, Water and Agriculture

Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 1.50 pm

1. Members present

Mr Banasiak, *Chair*

Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair (until 5.07 pm)*

Mr Faraway (*via WebEx, from 2.10 pm*)

Ms Jackson (*substituting for Mr Primrose*)

Mr Martin

Mr Poulos

Mr Veitch

Ms Faehrmann (*participating, from 3.45 pm until 5.15 pm*)

Mr Field (*participating via WebEx, from 3.45 pm until 5.10 pm*)

Mr Latham (*participating via WebEx, from 3.10 pm until 5.13 pm*)

Mr Mookhey (*participating, from 2.10 pm until 3.10 pm*)

Mr Shoebridge (*participating, from 2.20 pm until 2.48 pm*)

2. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 1 November 2021 - Email from Ms Nella Hall, Office of Hon Mark Latham MLC, to the secretariat, advising that Mr Latham will not be attending the PC1 Premier hearing on 4 November but will be present via WebEx for the PC4 Water, Property and Housing hearing on 5 November 2021
- 2 November 2021 - Email from Ms Cara Punch, Office of the Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC, Opposition Whip, to the secretariat, advising that Ms Jackson will be substituting for Mr Primrose for the Water, Property and Housing hearing on 5 November 2021
- 2 November 2021 - Email from Ms Cara Punch, Office of the Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC, Opposition Whip, to the secretariat, advising that Ms Jackson will be a participating member for the Regional New South Wales hearing on 4 November 2021.

3. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 - supplementary hearings

3.1 Order for examination of portfolios

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 resolution the portfolio of Water, Property and Housing, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 2.00 pm to 5.15 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions from 5.15 pm to 5.30 pm, if required.

3.2 Public hearing: Water, Property and Housing

Departmental witnesses were admitted.

The Hon Melinda Pavey MP, Minister for Water, Property and Housing was admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters. The Chair noted that members of Parliament swear an oath to their office, and therefore do not need to be sworn prior to giving evidence before a committee.

The following witnesses were sworn:

- Ms Kiersten Fishburn, Acting Secretary, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (*in person*)
- Mr Michael Wright, Group Deputy Secretary, Housing and Property, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (*in person until 3.30 pm*)
- Ms Melanie Hawykes, Deputy Secretary, Crown Lands, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (*via WebEx, until 3.30 pm*)
- Mr Michael Cassel, Chief Executive Officer, Land and Housing Corporation, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (*via WebEx, until 3.30 pm*)
- Mr Leon Walker, Deputy Secretary, Property & Development NSW, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (*via WebEx, until 3.30 pm*)
- Ms Jen Hickey, Chief Executive Officer of Cemeteries and Crematoria NSW (*via WebEx, until 3.30 pm*)
- Ms Alison McLaren, Executive Director Business Performance, Valuer General of NSW (*via WebEx, until 3.30 pm*).

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio of Water, Property and Housing open for examination.

The Minister and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Dr Jim Bentley, Deputy Secretary, Water, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (*in person from 3.45 pm*)
- Mr Andrew George, Chief Executive Officer, WaterNSW (*via WebEx, from 3.45 pm*)
- Mr Roch Cheroux, Managing Director, Sydney Water (*via WebEx, from 3.45 pm*)
- Mr Darren Cleary, Managing Director, Hunter Water (*via WebEx, from 3.45 pm*)
- Mr Grant Barnes, Chief Regulatory Officer, Natural Resources Access Regulator (*via WebEx, from 3.45 pm*)
- Ms Amanda Jones, Chief Strategy Officer, Water, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (*via WebEx, from 3.45 pm*)
- Ms Anissa Levy, Chief Executive Officer, Water Infrastructure NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (*via WebEx, from 3.45 pm*).

Mr Field tabled the following documents:

- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding Gwydir Alluvium (Groundwater) Water Resource Plan
- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding Murrumbidgee (Surface Water) Water Resource Plan
- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding Namoi (Surface Water) Water Resource Plan

- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding Namoi Alluvium (Groundwater) Water Resource Plan
- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding Lachlan (Surface Water) Water Resource Plan
- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding NSW Border Rivers Alluvium (Groundwater) Water Resource Plan
- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding Murray and Lower Darling Water Resource Plan
- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding NSW Border Rivers (Surface Water) Water Resource Plan.

The Minister withdrew at 5.15 pm.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 5.15 pm.

3.3 Tabled documents

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That the committee accept but not publish the following documents tendered during the Water, Property and Housing hearing held on Friday 5 November 2021, until the secretariat has reviewed the documents for issues of confidentiality and adverse mention:

- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding Gwydir Alluvium (Groundwater) Water Resource Plan, tabled by Mr Justin Field MLC
- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding Murrumbidgee (Surface Water) Water Resource Plan, tabled by Mr Justin Field MLC
- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding Namoi (Surface Water) Water Resource Plan, tabled by Mr Justin Field MLC
- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding Namoi Alluvium (Groundwater) Water Resource Plan, tabled by Mr Justin Field MLC
- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding Lachlan (Surface Water) Water Resource Plan, tabled by Mr Justin Field MLC
- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding NSW Border Rivers Alluvium (Groundwater) Water Resource Plan, tabled by Mr Justin Field MLC
- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding Murray and Lower Darling Water Resource Plan, tabled by Mr Justin Field MLC
- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding NSW Border Rivers (Surface Water) Water Resource Plan, tabled by Mr Justin Field MLC.

4. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5.17 pm, *Sine die*.

Rhia Victorino
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 50

Friday 5 November 2021

Portfolio Committee No. 4 - Regional NSW, Water and Agriculture
Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 1.50 pm**1. Members present**Mr Banasiak, *Chair*Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair (until 5.07 pm)*Mr Farraway (*via WebEx, from 2.10 pm*)Ms Jackson (*substituting for Mr Primrose*)

Mr Martin

Mr Poulos

Mr Veitch

Ms Faehrmann (*participating, from 3.45 pm until 5.15 pm*)Mr Field (*participating via WebEx, from 3.45 pm until 5.10 pm*)Mr Latham (*participating via WebEx, from 3.10 pm until 5.13 pm*)Mr Mookhey (*participating, from 2.10 pm until 3.10 pm*)Mr Shoebridge (*participating, from 2.20 pm until 2.48 pm*)**2. Correspondence**

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 1 November 2021 - Email from Ms Nella Hall, Office of Hon Mark Latham MLC, to the secretariat, advising that Mr Latham will not be attending the PC1 Premier hearing on 4 November but will be present via WebEx for the PC4 Water, Property and Housing hearing on 5 November 2021
- 2 November 2021 - Email from Ms Cara Punch, Office of the Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC, Opposition Whip, to the secretariat, advising that Ms Jackson will be substituting for Mr Primrose for the Water, Property and Housing hearing on 5 November 2021
- 2 November 2021 - Email from Ms Cara Punch, Office of the Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC, Opposition Whip, to the secretariat, advising that Ms Jackson will be a participating member for the Regional New South Wales hearing on 4 November 2021.

3. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 - supplementary hearings**3.1 Order for examination of portfolios**

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 resolution the portfolio of Water, Property and Housing, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 2.00 pm to 5.15 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions from 5.15 pm to 5.30 pm, if required.

3.2 Public hearing: Water, Property and Housing

Departmental witnesses were admitted.

The Hon Melinda Pavey MP, Minister for Water, Property and Housing was admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters. The Chair noted that members of Parliament swear an oath to their office, and therefore do not need to be sworn prior to giving evidence before a committee.

The following witnesses were sworn:

- Ms Kiersten Fishburn, Acting Secretary, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (*in person*)
- Mr Michael Wright, Group Deputy Secretary, Housing and Property, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (*in person until 3.30 pm*)
- Ms Melanie Hawyes, Deputy Secretary, Crown Lands, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (*via WebEx, until 3.30 pm*)

- Mr Michael Cassel, Chief Executive Officer, Land and Housing Corporation, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (*via WebEx, until 3.30 pm*)
- Mr Leon Walker, Deputy Secretary, Property & Development NSW, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (*via WebEx, until 3.30 pm*)
- Ms Jen Hickey, Chief Executive Officer of Cemeteries and Crematoria NSW (*via WebEx, until 3.30 pm*)
- Ms Alison McLaren, Executive Director Business Performance, Valuer General of NSW (*via WebEx, until 3.30 pm*).

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio of Water, Property and Housing open for examination.

The Minister and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Dr Jim Bentley, Deputy Secretary, Water, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (*in person from 3.45 pm*)
- Mr Andrew George, Chief Executive Officer, WaterNSW (*via WebEx, from 3.45 pm*)
- Mr Roch Cheroux, Managing Director, Sydney Water (*via WebEx, from 3.45 pm*)
- Mr Darren Cleary, Managing Director, Hunter Water (*via WebEx, from 3.45 pm*)
- Mr Grant Barnes, Chief Regulatory Officer, Natural Resources Access Regulator (*via WebEx, from 3.45 pm*)
- Ms Amanda Jones, Chief Strategy Officer, Water, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (*via WebEx, from 3.45 pm*)
- Ms Anissa Levy, Chief Executive Officer, Water Infrastructure NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (*via WebEx, from 3.45 pm*).

Mr Field tabled the following documents:

- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding Gwydir Alluvium (Groundwater) Water Resource Plan
- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding Murrumbidgee (Surface Water) Water Resource Plan
- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding Namoi (Surface Water) Water Resource Plan
- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding Namoi Alluvium (Groundwater) Water Resource Plan
- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding Lachlan (Surface Water) Water Resource Plan
- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding NSW Border Rivers Alluvium (Groundwater) Water Resource Plan
- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding Murray and Lower Darling Water Resource Plan
- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding NSW Border Rivers (Surface Water) Water Resource Plan.

The Minister withdrew at 5.15 pm.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 5.15 pm.

3.3 Tabled documents

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That the committee accept but not publish the following documents tendered during the Water, Property and Housing hearing held on Friday 5 November 2021, until the secretariat has reviewed the documents for issues of confidentiality and adverse mention:

- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding Gwydir Alluvium (Groundwater) Water Resource Plan, tabled by Mr Justin Field MLC
- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding Murrumbidgee (Surface Water) Water Resource Plan, tabled by Mr Justin Field MLC
- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding Namoi (Surface Water) Water Resource Plan, tabled by Mr Justin Field MLC
- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding Namoi Alluvium (Groundwater) Water Resource Plan, tabled by Mr Justin Field MLC
- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding Lachlan (Surface Water) Water Resource Plan, tabled by Mr Justin Field MLC
- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding NSW Border Rivers Alluvium (Groundwater) Water Resource Plan, tabled by Mr Justin Field MLC
- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding Murray and Lower Darling Water Resource Plan, tabled by Mr Justin Field MLC
- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding NSW Border Rivers (Surface Water) Water Resource Plan, tabled by Mr Justin Field MLC.

4. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5.17 pm, *Sine die*.

Rhia Victorino
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 55

Wednesday 23 February 2022

Portfolio Committee No. 4 - Regional New South Wales, Water and Agriculture
Members' Lounge, Parliament House, at 2.52 pm

1. Members present

Mr Banasiak, *Chair*
Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair*
Mr Fang (via phone)
Mr Martin
Mr Poulos
Mr Primrose
Mr Veitch

2. Apologies

Mr Martin and Mr Poulos.

3. Previous minutes

Resolved on the Mr Veitch :That draft minutes nos. 48, 49 and 50 be confirmed.

4. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 8 December 2021 - Letter from Mr Andrew George, Chief Executive Officer, WaterNSW to the Chair, providing a transcript clarification to his evidence given at the hearing on 5 November 2021
- 9 December 2021 - Email from Mr Connor McGoverne, Office of the Hon Adam Marshall MP, Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW, to the secretariat, forwarding attachments to answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions
- 9 December 2021 - Email from Ms Imogen Posa, Office of Hon Melinda Pavey MP, to the secretariat, providing amended answers to supplementary questions with attachments
- 24 December 2021 - Email from Mr Steven Spierings, Government Relations Advisor, Customer, Strategy and Engagement, Sydney Water, to the secretariat, forwarding redacted versions of attachments to Supplementary Question 125 for the Water, Property and Housing portfolio post hearing responses.

Sent

- 8 November 2021 - Email from the secretariat, to the Hon Adam Marshall MP, Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW, forwarding transcript of evidence with questions on notice highlighted and supplementary questions
- 10 November 2021 - Email from the secretariat, to the Hon Paul Toole MP., Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW, forwarding transcript of evidence with questions on notice highlighted and supplementary questions
- 17 November 2021 - Email from the secretariat, to the Hon Melinda Pavey MP, Minister for Water, Property and Housing, forwarding transcript of evidence with questions on notice highlighted and supplementary questions
- 30 November 2021 - Email from the secretariat, to Mr Connor McGoverne, Office of the Hon Adam Marshall MP, Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW, requesting provision of attachment to supplementary question 9 regarding the draft Standards and Guidelines for Poultry
- 1 December 2021 - Email from the secretariat, to Mr Connor McGoverne, Office of the Hon Adam Marshall MP, Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW, requesting provision of attachment to a question 13 taken notice
- 7 December 2021 - Email from secretariat, to Mr Connor McGoverne, Office of the Hon Adam Marshall MP, Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW, requesting copies of attachments
- 9 December 2021 - Email from secretariat to Ms Imogen Posa, Office of the Hon Melinda Pavey MP, Minister for Water, Property and Housing, requesting missing attachments to answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions.

5. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022

The committee noted the Budget Estimates timetable for 2021-2022 as per the Notice of Motion for additional budget estimates hearings dated 11 February 2022 from the office of the leader of the Government, with hearings commencing at 9.30 am and concluding by 5.30 pm, for Portfolio Committee No. 4:

- Customer Service and Digital Government, Monday 7 March 2022, Macquarie Room
- Lands & Water, Hospitality & Racing, Wednesday 9 March 2022, Macquarie Room
- Small Business and Fair Trading, Friday 11 March 2022, Jubilee Room
- Agriculture & Western NSW, Tuesday 15 March 2022, Macquarie Room

5.1 Witnesses, allocation of question time and total hearing time

The committee noted as per the Notice of Motion for additional budget estimates hearings that each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 11.00 am, and from 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, then from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm, and from 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions at the end of the morning and afternoon session.

5.2 Witnesses to appear at hearings

Mr Veitch moved :That Mr Amato be invited as the parliamentary secretary for Small Business and Fair Trading to appear at the Budget Estimates hearing for that portfolio on Friday 11 March 2022.

Question put.

The committee divided

Ayes: Mr Banasiak, Ms Hurst, Mr Primrose, Mr Veitch

Noes: Mr Fang

Question resolved in the affirmative

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That the witness list provided by Mr Veitch be circulated to the committee and any additional witnesses be sent to the secretariat by 5.00 pm, Wednesday 23 February 2022.

5.3 Witness appearance time

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Poulos: That:

- the Minister appear for the morning session from 9.30 am until 1.00 pm and departmental staff appear from 9.30 am until 5.30 pm

5.4 Recording of hearing

Resolved, on the Mr Veitch: That the additional Budget Estimates hearings be recorded and that these recordings be placed on the inquiry webpage as soon as practicable after the hearing.

5.5 Tabled documents - Water, Property and Housing hearing 5 November 2021

Resolved , on the motion of Ms Hurst to accept and publish the following documents tendered during the Water, Property and Housing hearing held on 5 November 2021:

- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding Gwydir Alluvium (Groundwater) Water Resource Plan, tabled by Mr Justin Field MLC
- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding Murrumbidgee (Surface Water) Water Resource Plan, tabled by Mr Justin Field MLC
- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding Namoi (Surface Water) Water Resource Plan, tabled by Mr Justin Field MLC
- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding Namoi Alluvium (Groundwater) Water Resource Plan, tabled by Mr Justin Field MLC
- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding Lachlan (Surface Water) Water Resource Plan, tabled by Mr Justin Field MLC
- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding NSW Border Rivers Alluvium (Groundwater) Water Resource Plan, tabled by Mr Justin Field MLC
- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding Murray and Lower Darling Water Resource Plan, tabled by Mr Justin Field MLC
- Correspondence - Murray Darling Basin Authority to the Minister for Water regarding NSW Border Rivers (Surface Water) Water Resource Plan, tabled by Mr Justin Field MLC.

6. Next meeting

9.15 am on Monday 7 March 2022 - Budget Estimates Hearing - Portfolio Committee 4.

Donna Glover
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 57

Monday 7 March 2022

Portfolio Committee No. 4 - Regional NSW, Water and Agriculture
Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9.47 am**1. Members present**Mr Banasiak, *Chair*Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair*Mr Martin (*from 10.46 am*)

Mr Poulos

Mr Primrose (*from 10.34 am*)Mr D'Adam (*substituting for Mr Veitch*) (*via WebEx*)**2. Apologies**

Mr Barrett

3. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 - additional hearings**3.1 Order for examination of portfolios**

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 resolution each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 11.00 am, and from 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, then from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm, and from 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions at the end of the morning and afternoon sessions, if required.

3.2 Public hearing: Customer Service and Digital Government

Departmental witnesses were admitted.

The Honourable Minister Victor Dominello MP, Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government was admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters. The Chair noted that members of Parliament swear an oath to their office, and therefore do not need to be sworn prior to giving evidence before a committee.

The following witnesses were sworn:

- Ms Emma Hogan, Secretary, Department of Customer Service
- Mr Adam Dent, Chief Executive Officer, State Insurance Regulatory Authority, Department of Customer Service
- Mr Greg Wells, Deputy Secretary, Digital.NSW, Department of Customer Service
- Mr Damon Rees, Chief Executive Officer, Service NSW, Department of Customer Service
- Ms Mandy Young, Chief Operating Officer, Department of Customer Service
- Mr William Murphy, Deputy Secretary, Customer, Delivery and Transformation, Department of Customer Service
- Ms Elizabeth Tydd, NSW Information Commissioner
- Ms Samantha Gavel, NSW Privacy Commissioner (*via WebEx*)
- Ms Liz Livingstone, Chief Executive Officer, Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Customer Service and Digital Government open for examination.

The Minister and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

The committee took a short adjournment. The witnesses withdrew.

4. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received:

- 1 March 2022 - Letter from The Honourable Damien Tudehope MLC, Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, to Mr David Blunt, Clerk of the Parliaments, advising of changes in committee membership
- 2 March 2022 - Email from Leane van Essen, Office of the Hon. Victor Dominello MP, nominating departmental witnesses
- 2 March 2022 - Email from Rowan Carter, Office of the Hon. Kevin Anderson MP, nominating departmental witnesses
- 3 March 2022 - Email from Ms Cassandra Lawry, Office of Hon. Eleni Petinos MP, providing final list of departmental witnesses
- 3 March 2022 - Email from Rowan Carter, Office of the Hon. Kevin Anderson MP, declining the committee's request that Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte appear at 9 March hearing

Sent:

- 28 February 2022 - Email from the secretariat, to the Hon Kevin Anderson MP, Minister for Lands and Water, and Minister for Hospitality and Racing, issuing witness invitations for the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearings
- 28 February 2022 - Email from the secretariat, to the Hon Victor Dominello MP, Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, issuing witness invitations for the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearings
- 28 February 2022 - Email from the secretariat, to the Hon Dugald Saunders MP, Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales, issuing witness invitations for the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearings
- 28 February 2022 - Email from the secretariat, to the Hon Eleni Petinos MP, Minister for Small Business, and Minister for Fair Trading, issuing witness invitations for the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearings
- 2 March 2022 - Email from the secretariat, to Ms Sarah Bird, Office of the Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Western NSW, requesting Ms Suzanne Robinson's appearance at 15 March hearing
- 3 March 2022 - Email from the secretariat, to Ms Cassandra Lawry, Office of Hon. Eleni Petinos MP, requesting that witnesses at 11 March hearing participate all day
- 3 March 2022 - Email from the secretariat, to Rowan Carter, Office of the Hon. Kevin Anderson MP, requesting that Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte appear at 9 March hearing.

5. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 - additional hearings (continued)

5.1 Public hearing: Customer Service and Digital Government (continued)

The witnesses were readmitted.

The Minister and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

The Minister tendered the following document:

- Privacy Commissioner statement on COVID-Safe business registration venues data set.

Mr Primrose tendered the following document:

- Emails relating to Park N Pay.

The Minister withdrew at 1.01 pm.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 4.45 pm.

5.2 Tendered documents

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Primrose: That the committee accept and publish on the committee's website the following documents tendered during the Customer Service and Digital Government hearing held on Monday 7 March 2022, subject to email addresses and phone numbers being redacted:

- Emails relating to Park N Pay, tendered by Mr Primrose.

6. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 4.45 pm, until 9.15 am, Wednesday 9 March 2022, Macquarie Room, Budget Estimates hearing — Lands and Water, Hospitality and Racing

Anthony Hanna
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 58

Wednesday 9 March 2022

Portfolio Committee No. 4 - Customer Service and Natural Resources
Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9.15 am

1. Members present

Mr Banasiak, *Chair*

Mr Martin

Mr Poulos

Mr Primrose, *Deputy Chair*

Ms Jackson (*substituting for Mr Veitch*)

Ms Boyd (*participating*)

Mr Pearson (*substituting for Ms Hurst*) (*from 10.38 am until 11.58 am*)

Mr Field (*participating*) (*via Webex*) (*from 9.21am until 3.45 pm*)

Ms Faehrmann (*participating*) (*via Webex*) (*from 11.30 am until 12.44 pm*)

Mr Searle (*participating*) (*from 2.00 pm until 5.10 pm*)

Mr Shoebridge (*participating*) (*from 12.22 pm until 2.45 pm*)

2. Apologies

Mr Barrett

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 3 March 2022 - Email from Rowan Carter, Office of the Hon. Kevin Anderson MP, declining the committee's request that Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte appear at 9 March hearing
- 7 March 2022 - Email from Rowan Carter, Office of the Hon Kevin Anderson MP, advising of additional witness at 9 March 2022 hearing

Sent

- 3 March 2022 - Email from the secretariat, to Rowan Carter, Office of the Hon. Kevin Anderson MP, requesting that Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte appear at 9 March hearing

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 - supplementary hearings

4.1 Order for examination of portfolios

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 resolution each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 11.00 am, and from 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, then from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm, and from 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions at the end of the morning and afternoon sessions, if required.

4.2 Public hearing: Lands and Water, Hospitality and Racing

Departmental witnesses were admitted.

The Honourable Minister Anderson MP, Minister for Lands and Water, Hospitality and Racing was admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters. The Chair noted that members of Parliament swear an oath to their office, and therefore do not need to be sworn prior to giving evidence before a committee.

The Chair also reminded the following witnesses that they did not need to be sworn, as they had been sworn at another Budget Estimates hearing for the same committee:

- Dr Jim Bentley, CEO NSW Water Sector, Department of Planning & Environment
- Mr Michael Wright, Deputy Secretary, Department of Planning & Environment
- Ms Melanie Hawyes, Deputy Secretary, Department of Planning & Environment
- Ms Amanda Jones, CEO Water Infrastructure, Department of Planning & Environment
- Mr Andrew George, CEO, Water NSW
- Mr Roch Cheroux, Managing Director, Sydney Water
- Mr Darren Cleary, Managing Director, Hunter Water
- Mr Grant Barnes, Chief Regulatory Officer, Natural Resources Access Regulator.

The following witnesses were sworn:

- Mr Steve Griffin, CEO, Greyhound Welfare Integrity Commission
- Mr Terry O'Brien, Director, Office of Racing
- Ms Natasha Mann, Fair Trading Commissioner/Deputy Secretary, Department of Customer Service
- Mr John Tansey, Executive Director, Policy and Strategy, Better Regulation Division, Department of Customer Service
- Mr Philip Crawford, Chairman, Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority
- Ms Jen Hickey, CEO, Cemeteries and Crematoria NSW.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Lands and Water, Hospitality and Racing open for examination.

The Minister and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

Hon Mark Banasiak MLC tendered the following document:

- WaterNSW - Application to Assign Surface Water Allocation.

Resolved, on the motion of the Hon Rose Jackson MLC: That the Hon Peter Primrose MLC assume the role of Deputy Chair for the duration of the meeting.

The Minister withdrew at 12.45 pm.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 5.15 pm.

4.3 Tended documents

Resolved, on the motion of Hon Rose Jackson MLC: That the committee accept and publish the following documents tendered during the Lands and Water, Hospitality and Racing hearing held on Wednesday 9 March 2022:

- WaterNSW - Application to Assign Surface Water Allocation

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5.16 pm, until 9.15 am, Friday 11 March 2022, Jubilee Room, Budget Estimates hearing — Small Business, Fair Trading.

Andrew Rode

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 59

Friday 11 March 2022

Portfolio Committee No. 4 - Customer Service and Natural Resources

Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9.15 am

1. Members present

Mr Banasiak, *Chair*

Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Poulos

Mr Primrose

Mrs Houssos (*substituting for Mr Veitch*)

Mr Fang (*substituting for Mr Martin*) (*until 4.00 pm*)

Ms Boyd (*participating*) (*from 11.35 am until 11.50 am; from 2.40 pm until 3.20 pm*)

Mr D'Adam (*via Webex*) (*participating*) (*until 4.30 pm*)

Mr Shoebridge (*participating*) (*from 11.15 am until 12.05 pm; from 2.20 pm to 2.50 pm*)

2. Apologies

Mr Barrett

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 8 March 2022 - Email from Ms Sarah Bird, Office of the Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Western NSW, confirming Ms Suzanne Robinson's appearance at 15 March hearing.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 - supplementary hearings

4.1 Order for examination of portfolios

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 resolution each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 11.00 am, and from 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, then from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm, and from 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions at the end of the morning and afternoon sessions, if required.

4.2 Public hearing: Small Business, Fair Trading

Departmental witnesses were admitted.

The Hon. Eleni Petinos MP, Minister for Small Business and Fair Trading, was admitted.

The Hon. Lou Amato MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business, was admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters. The Chair noted that members of Parliament swear an oath to their office, and therefore do not need to be sworn prior to giving evidence before a committee.

The Chair also reminded the following witnesses that they did not need to be sworn, as they had been sworn at another Budget Estimates hearing for the same committee:

- Emma Hogan, Secretary, Department of Customer Service
- Natasha Mann, Fair Trading Commissioner; Deputy Secretary, Better Regulation, Department of Customer Service
- John Tansey, Executive Director, Policy & Strategy, Department of Customer Service.

The following witnesses were sworn:

- Chris Lamont, Small Business Commissioner, Small Business Commission
- David Chandler, Building Commissioner, Department of Customer Service (DCS)
- Tony Williams, Executive Director, Compliance and Dispute Resolution, Department of Customer Service
- Meagan McCool, Director, Construction Services Group, Metropolitan, SafeWork NSW, Department of Customer Service (DCS)
- Michael Gadiel, Executive Director, Economic Strategy, NSW Treasury.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Small Business and Fair Trading open for examination.

The Minister and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

Mrs Houssos tendered the following document:

- Email from Secretary, Mascot Towers to chief of staff for Minister Eleni Petinos, dated 4 February 2022.

Mr Shoebridge tendered the following document:

- Email from Mr David Shoebridge to Hon Paul Toole MP, Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Mr Michael Fuller and Ms Natasha Mann, dated 21 February 2022.

Mrs Houssos tendered the following documents:

- Realestate.com.au profile of 607/299-309 Old Northern Road, Castle Hill, NSW 2154
- Realestate.com.au profile of 402/93 Auburn Road, Auburn, NSW 2144
- Realestate.com.au profile of 2/12 Beaconsfield Parade, Lindfield, NSW 2070
- Realestate.com.au profile of B203/9 Hassall Street, Parramatta, NSW 2150.

The Minister and Mr Amato withdrew at 12.45 pm.

Ms Hogan tendered the following document:

- Terms of Reference of the Property Services Expert Panel

Mr Shoebridge tendered the following document:

- Media release from the Lighting Council Australia titled "NSW Fair Trading Failing to Act on Dangerous Lighting".

Mr Chris Lamont and Mr Michael Gadiel withdrew.

Mrs Houssos tendered the following document:

- Page 239 from the Department of Customer Service Annual Report 2020/2021.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 5.18 pm.

4.3 Tended documents

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Houssos: That the committee accept and publish the following documents tendered during the Small Business, Fair Trading hearing held on Friday 11 March 2022:

- Email from Secretary, Mascot Towers to chief of staff for Minister Eleni Petinos, dated 4 February 2022, tendered by Mrs Houssos
- Realestate.com.au profile of 607/299-309 Old Northern Road, Castle Hill, NSW 2154, tendered by Mrs Houssos
- Realestate.com.au profile of 402/93 Auburn Road, Auburn, NSW 2144, tendered by Mrs Houssos
- Realestate.com.au profile of 2/12 Beaconsfield Parade, Lindfield, NSW 2070, tendered by Mrs Houssos
- Realestate.com.au profile of B203/9 Hassall Street, Parramatta, NSW 2150, tendered by Mrs Houssos
- Terms of Reference of the Property Services Expert Panel, tendered by Ms Emma Hogan
- Page 239 from the Department of Customer Service Annual Report 2020/2021, Mrs Houssos.

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Houssos: That the committee accept but defer publication of the following documents tabled during the Small Business, Fair Trading hearing held on Friday 11 March 2022, until the secretariat has reviewed the documents for issues of confidentiality:

- Media release from the Lighting Council Australia titled "NSW Fair Trading Failing to Act on Dangerous Lighting", tendered by Mr Shoebridge
- Email from Mr David Shoebridge to Hon Paul Toole MP, Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Mr Michael Fuller and Ms Natasha Mann, dated 21 February 2022, tendered by Mr Shoebridge.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5.19 pm, until 9.15 am, Tuesday 15 March 2022, Macquarie Room, Budget Estimates hearing — Agriculture, Western New South Wales

Stephen Fujiwara

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 60

Tuesday 15 March 2022

Portfolio Committee No. 4 - Customer Service and Natural Resources
Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9.16 am

1. Members present

Mr Banasiak, *Chair*

Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Barrett

Mr Poulos

Mr Primrose

Mr Veitch

Ms Boyd (*participating*) (*from 11.15 am until 11.50 am*)

Mr Field (*participating*)

Mr Shoebridge (*participating*) (*from 10.20 am until 10.45 am; from 12.10 pm until 12.35 pm*)

2. Apologies

Mr Martin

3. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 - supplementary hearings

3.1 Order for examination of portfolios

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 resolution each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 11.00

am, and from 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, then from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm, and from 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions at the end of the morning and afternoon sessions, if required.

3.2 Public hearing: Agriculture, Western New South Wales

Departmental witnesses were admitted.

The Hon. Dugald Saunders MP, Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW, was admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters. The Chair noted that members of Parliament swear an oath to their office, and therefore do not need to be sworn prior to giving evidence before a committee.

The Chair also reminded the following witnesses that they did not need to be sworn, as they had been sworn at another Budget Estimates hearing for the same committee:

- Mr Gary Barnes, Secretary, Regional NSW
- Mr Scott Hansen, Director General, Primary Industries, Primary Industries
- Mr Anshul Chaudhary, CEO, Forestry Corporation, Forestry Corporation
- Dr John Tracey, Deputy Director General, Biosecurity & Food Safety, Primary Industries
- Mr Sean Sloane, Deputy Director General, Fisheries, Primary Industries
- Mr Daryl Quinlivan, NSW Agriculture Commissioner, Primary Industries
- Dr Kim Filmer, Chief Animal Welfare Officer, Primary Industries
- Ms Suzanne Robinson, Acting Director, Animal Welfare, NSW DPI

The following witnesses were sworn:

- Mr Steve Orr, CEO, Local Land Services, Local Land Services
- Mr Adam Tyndall, Director, Policy & Reform, Local Land Services
- Mr David McPherson, Deputy Director General, Forestry & Land Reform, Primary Industries
- Mr Rob Kelly, Executive Director, Regional Operations, Local Land Services
- Mr Jonathan Wheaton, Executive Director, Regional Development, Regional NSW.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Agriculture and Western New South Wales open for examination.

The Minister and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

The Hon Mark Banasiak MLC tendered the following documents:

- Emails from staff member, Firearms Registry to Local Land Services regarding vertebrate pest control, dated 8 December 2014
- Letter from Scott Carter, Senior Fisheries Manager, Coastal Systems Unit, Department of Primary Industries to Fadi Shakir, Senior Planning Officer, Transport Assessments, Department of Planning and Environment regarding the environmental impact statement for the Kamay Ferry Wharves Project, dated 9 August 2021.

The Minister withdrew at 12.45 pm. Mr Gary Barnes withdrew at 12.45 pm.

The public hearing continued.

Mr Daryl Quinlivan withdrew at 2.15 pm.

The Hon Emma Hurst MLC tendered the following document:

- Perth Now article entitled "Smart drum lines: contractor to be paid \$6000 a day to catch sharks in WA's South West", dated 27 January 2019.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 5.15 pm.

3.3 Tendered documents

Resolved, on the motion of Hon Mick Veitch: That the committee accept and publish the following documents tendered during the Agriculture, Western New South Wales hearing held on Tuesday 15 March 2022:

- Emails from staff member, Firearms Registry to Local Land Services regarding vertebrate pest control, dated 8 December 2014, tendered by the Hon Mark Banasiak MLC
- Letter from Scott Carter, Senior Fisheries Manager, Coastal Systems Unit, Department of Primary Industries to Fadi Shakir, Senior Planning Officer, Transport Assessments, Department of Planning and Environment regarding the environmental impact statement for the Kamay Ferry Wharves Project, dated 9 August 2021, tendered by Hon Mark Banasiak MLC
- Perth Now article entitled "Smart drum lines: contractor to be paid \$6000 a day to catch sharks in WA's South West", dated 27 January 2019, tendered by Hon Emma Hurst MLC.

Resolved, on the motion of Hon Mick Veitch: That the committee accept and publish the following documents tendered during the Small Business and Fair Trading hearing held on Friday 11 March 2022:

- Email from Mr David Shoebridge to Hon Paul Toole MP, Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Mr Michael Fuller and Ms Natasha Mann, dated 21 February 2022, tendered by Mr David Shoebridge MLC
- Media release from the Lighting Council Australia titled "NSW Fair Trading Failing to Act on Dangerous Lighting", tendered by Mr David Shoebridge MLC.

4. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5.18 pm, until 9.15 am, 17 March 2022.

Jessie Halligan
Committee Clerk

Draft minutes no. 72

Thursday 23 June 2022

Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Customer Service and Natural Resources

Room 1254, Parliament House, Sydney, at 2.00 pm

1. Members present

Mr Banasiak, *Chair*
Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair*
Mr Barrett
Mr Martin
Mr Poulos
Mr Primrose

2. Apologies

Mr Veitch

3. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Martin: That draft minutes nos. 55, 56, 57, 58, 59 and 60 be confirmed.

4. **Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 – further hearings**

The committee noted that the following answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions were published by the committee clerk under the authorisation of the resolution establishing the Inquiry:

- Answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions - Hon Victor Dominello MP - Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government - received 1 April 2022
- Answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions - Hon Kevin Anderson MP - Minister for Lands and Water, Hospitality and Racing - received 5 April 2022
- Answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions - Hon Eleni Petinos MP - Minister for Small Business and Fair Trading - with Attachments A, C to I - received 7 April 2022
- Answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions - Hon Dugald Saunders MP - Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales - received 11 April 2022

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Hurst: That attachment A to the answer to a question on notice received by Minister Anderson be kept confidential.

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

The Chair submitted his draft report entitled Budget Estimates 2021-2022, which, having been previously circulated, was taken as being read.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Hurst: That:

The draft report be the report of the committee and that the committee present the report to the House;

The transcripts of evidence, tabled documents, answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions, and correspondence relating to the inquiry be tabled in the House with the report;

Upon tabling, all unpublished transcripts of evidence, tabled documents, answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions, and correspondence relating to the inquiry, be published by the committee, except for those documents kept confidential by resolution of the committee;

The committee secretariat correct any typographical, grammatical and formatting errors prior to tabling;

That the report be tabled by June 30 2022.

5. **Adjournment**

The committee adjourned at 2.01 pm, *sine die*.

Stewart Smith
Committee Clerk

