

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**  
**1st SESSION, 54th PARLIAMENT**  
**COMMITTEES**

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**STANDING COMMITTEES**

*Resolution passed 10 May 2007, Legislative Council Minutes No. 3, item 6*

That notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders:

**Appointment**

1. Three standing committees, reflecting Government Ministers' portfolio responsibilities, be appointed as follows:
  - (a) Law and Justice Committee,
  - (b) Social Issues Committee, and
  - (c) State Development Committee.

**Law and Justice Committee**

2. The committee may inquire into and report on:
  - (a) matters concerned with legal and constitutional issues including law reform, parliamentary matters, criminal law and administrative law,
  - (b) issues arising in connection with the New South Wales criminal justice system, including matters concerned with the Attorney General, police, corrective services and juvenile justice, and
  - (c) industrial relations, emergency services, and fair trading.

**Social Issues Committee**

3. The committee may inquire into and report on:
  - (a) any proposal, matter or thing concerned with the social development of the people in all areas of New South Wales,
  - (b) equality of access to services and benefits including health, education, housing, ageing, disability, children's and community services provided by the government and non-government sector to the people in all areas of New South Wales,
  - (c) citizenship, social relations and cultural diversity,
  - (d) recreation, gaming, racing and sporting matters, and
  - (e) the role of government in promoting the welfare of the people in all areas of New South Wales.

**State Development Committee**

4. The committee may inquire into and report on:
  - (a) options for future policy directions and emerging issues to ensure that opportunities for sound growth and wise development for the benefit of the people in all areas of New South Wales are pursued,
  - (b) any proposal, matter or thing concerned with economics and finance, commerce, infrastructure and planning, energy and utilities, natural resources, transportation, tourism, public administration, local government, primary industry, agriculture and fisheries, mineral resources, industrial and technological developments, science and medical research, and environmental issues in New South Wales, and

- (c) any proposal, matter or thing concerned with the problems or disadvantages uniquely or predominantly experienced in rural areas, including the viability of cities and towns in those areas.

### **Referral of inquiries**

- 5. (1) A committee:
  - (a) is to inquire into and report on any proposal, matter or thing relevant to the functions of the committee which is referred to the committee by resolution of the House,
  - (b) may inquire into and report on any proposal, matter or thing relevant to the functions of the committee which is referred by a Minister of the Crown,
  - (c) may inquire into and report on any annual report or petition relevant to the functions of the committee which has been laid upon the Table of the Legislative Council.
- (2) Whenever a committee resolves to inquire into a matter under paragraph 5(b) or 5(c), the terms of the reference or the resolution is to be reported to the House on the next sitting day.

### **Powers**

- 6. A committee has power to make visits of inspection within New South Wales and, with the approval of the President, elsewhere in Australia and outside Australia.

### **Membership**

- 7. Each committee is to consist of six members, comprising:
  - (a) three Government members,
  - (b) two Opposition members, and
  - (c) one Cross Bench member.

### **Chair And Deputy Chair**

- 8. (1) The Leader of the Government is to nominate in writing to the Clerk of the House the Chair of each committee.
- (2) The Leader of the Opposition is to nominate in writing to the Clerk of the House the Deputy Chair of each committee.

### **Quorum**

- 9. The quorum of a committee is three members, of whom two must be Government members and one a non-government member.

### **Sub-committees**

- 10. A committee has power to appoint sub-committees.

### **Participating members**

- 11. Unless the committee decides otherwise, a member of the House who is not a member of the relevant committee may take part in a private meeting of the committee but may not vote, move any motion or be counted for the purpose of any quorum or division.