



BUDGET ESTIMATES 2019-2020

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. That on tabling, the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2019 – 2020 presenting the amounts to be appropriated from the Consolidated Fund be referred to the Portfolio Committees for inquiry and report.
2. That for the purposes of the Budget Estimates inquiry 2019 – 2020:
 - (a) initial hearings be scheduled over 12 days from 29 to 30 August, 2 to 6 September and 9 to 13 September 2019, with the examination of portfolios on those days to be specified by further resolution of the House,
 - (b) supplementary hearings be scheduled over five days from 28 October to 1 November 2019, or on such other dates as required, with the examination of portfolios on those days to be determined by resolution of each committee,¹
 - (c) further hearings be scheduled over 12 days from 6 to 7 February, 10 to 14 February and 17 to 21 February 2020, with the examination of portfolios on those days to be specified by further resolution of the House,
 - (d) each scheduled day for the initial and further rounds² of hearings will begin at 9.30 am and conclude by 8.30 pm, with ministers, parliamentary secretaries and officers giving evidence in the morning sessions and officers giving further evidence during the afternoon sessions,
 - (e) the committees must hear evidence in public,
 - (f) 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,

¹ Paragraph 2(b) was amended on 16 October 2019 (*Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 16 October 2019, p 520). The original paragraph 2(b) read "supplementary hearings be scheduled over five days from 28 October to 1 November 2019, with the examination of portfolios on those days to be specified by further resolution of the House," (*Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 8 May 2019, pp 117-119).

² Paragraph 2(d) was amended on 16 October 2019 (*Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 16 October 2019, p 520). The original words "initial, supplementary and further rounds" *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 8 May 2019, pp 117-119) were replaced by "initial and further rounds".

- (g) witnesses, including ministers, may not make an opening statement before the committee commences questions,
 - (h) members may lodge supplementary questions with the committee clerk by 5.00 pm within two days, excluding Saturday and Sunday, following a hearing,
 - (i) 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, and
 - (j) committees are to present a final report to the House by 30 June 2020.
3. That this House resolve to adopt a revised schedule for future budget estimates inquiries similar to the Senate estimates process comprised of:
- (a) an initial round of estimates hearings over 12 days on the tabling of the Budget Estimates and related papers,
 - (b) supplementary hearings scheduled over five days in October or November of that year, and
 - (c) further hearings scheduled over 12 days in February or March of the following year.