



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO 4

Report on Budget Estimates 1999-2000

Volume 1

4

General Purpose Standing Committee No 4

**Report on
Budget Estimates 1999-2000**

Volume 1

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Chair's Foreword

General Purpose Standing Committee No 4 has examined the Budget Estimates for 1999-2000 for the portfolio areas of:

Gaming and Racing, Hunter Development
Public Works and Services
Urban Affairs and Planning, Aboriginal Affairs, Housing
Transport, Roads

In this report, the Committee considers a number of specific matters relating to the various portfolio areas.

The Committee expresses its appreciation for the assistance given by Ministers and officers of the departments and organisations who appeared before it.

The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC
Chair

Committee Membership

The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC (Chair)
The Hon Ian Cohen MLC (Deputy Chair)
The Hon John Hatzistergos MLC
The Hon Charlie Lynn MLC
The Hon Ian Macdonald MLC
The Hon David Oldfield MLC
The Hon Janelle Saffin MLC

Other Members who attended the Hearings

The Hon. Richard Bull MLC
The Hon Jan Burnswoods MLC
The Hon Helen Sham-Ho MLC
The Hon Henry Tsang MLC

Introduction

Establishment of the General Purpose Standing Committees

The five General Purpose Standing Committees were first constituted by resolution of the Legislative Council on 7 May 1997, during the 51st Parliament.¹ On 13 May 1999, shortly after the commencement of the 52nd Parliament, the five committees were reconstituted.²

The General Purpose Standing Committees may inquire and report on:

- (a) any matters referred to them by the House;
- (b) the expenditure, performance or effectiveness of any department of government, statutory body or corporation;
- (c) any matter in any annual report of a department of government, statutory body or corporation.³

Portfolios

The five committees reflect the Government Minister's portfolios as follows:

Committee No 1

- Premiers, Arts and Citizenship
- Treasury, State Development
- Olympics
- Education and Training
- Special Minister of State
- The Legislature

Committee No 2

- Health
- Community Services, Ageing, Disability Services, Women
- Small Business, Tourism
- Mineral Resources, Fisheries

Committee No 3

- Police
- Attorney General, Industrial Relations
- Fair Trading, Sport and Recreation
- Juvenile Justice, Youth

Committee No 4

- Urban Affairs and Planning, Aboriginal Affairs, Housing
- Transport, Road
- Gaming and Racing, Hunter Development
- Public Works and Services

¹ *Minutes of Proceedings, No 65, 7 May 1997, p 677. Also see Minutes of Proceedings, No 4, 14 September 1999, p 48, for amendment to the resolution (the addition of Special Minister of State in the portfolio areas).*

² *Minutes of Proceedings, No 3, 13 May 1999, p 62 (hereafter referred to as Resolution of 13 May 1999).*

³ *Resolution of 13 May 1999, para 3.*

Committee No 5

- Information Technology, Energy, Forestry, Western Sydney
- Agriculture, Land and Water Conservation
- Environment, Emergency Services, Corrective Services
- Local Government, Regional Development, Rural Affairs

Powers of the General Purpose Standing Committees

The General Purpose Standing Committees have power:

- (a) to send for and examine persons, papers, records and things;
- (b) to adjourn from place to place;
- (c) to make visits of inspection within the State;
- (d) to request the attendance of and examine Members of the House;
- (e) to publish, before presentation to the House, submissions received and evidence taken in public; and
- (f) to report from time to time their proceedings, evidence taken in public and recommendations.⁴

⁴ *Resolution of 13 May 1999, para 8.*

Referral of the 1999-2000 Budget Estimates

On 29 June 1999, the Legislative Council resolved that the Budget Estimates and related documents presenting the amounts to be appropriated from the Consolidated Funds be referred to the General Purpose Standing Committees for inquiry and report.⁵ Each Committee is to examine the Budget Estimates for their relevant portfolios and report to the House by the first sitting day in November 1999.⁶

Unlike previous years, the Committees' consideration of the Budget Estimates did not form part of the passage of the Appropriation Bills (which were passed on 2 July 1999). This separation of consideration of the Budget Estimates from the passage of the Appropriation Bills allows a more relaxed timeframe for their consideration. The reference is modelled on that used by the Commonwealth Senate and is particularly appropriate for the Legislative Council which, while having a scrutiny function concerning Government expenditure, is not able to prevent the passage of the ordinary annual services of the Government.

Gaming and Racing, Hunter Development

The Committee heard evidence from the Hon J Face MP, Minister for Gaming and Racing, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Hunter Development, together with officers of the relevant department, at a public hearing held on 7 September 1999.

Matters raised during the hearing include those summarised below.

Gaming and Racing

Industrial relations action

Industrial relations action within the Department was discussed. The Director-General of the Department, Mr Brown, stated that a voluntary redundancy program had become necessary following the receipt of advice concerning budget reductions. Work bans had been in place for some time. A proposal to resolve the dispute was due to be considered at a meeting on 8 September 1999.

Mr Brown indicated that the work bans were adversely affecting transfers of liquor licences and the fundraising activities of non-profit organisations which utilise functions licences. Additional concerns were raised during the hearing including the loss of revenue experienced by a number of country shows as a result of the difficulty in getting special event licenses.

Community Benefit Fund

The Minister was questioned in some detail about the Community Benefit Fund. He confirmed that the name of the Fund is proposed to be changed. He advised the Committee that some problems had been experienced with certain projects supported by the Fund, but that these problems were being addressed or reviewed. The Minister also told the Committee that a

⁵ *Minutes of Proceedings, No 14, 29 June 1999, pp 163-164 (hereafter referred to as Resolution of 29 June 1999).*

⁶ *Resolution of 29 June 1999, para 17.*

number of projects had been funded which did not specifically relate to rehabilitation or counselling for gamblers.

Internet gambling

The Government's intentions concerning the introduction of legislation for the regulation of Internet gambling were examined. The Minister advised that the NSW Government is looking to the Federal Government to take the lead on this issue, as any restriction on Internet gaming can only be effective if supported by the Federal Government. Some Members of the Committee are concerned that the Government is not taking a more proactive approach on this issue as is the case in a number of other States which are moving to regulate.

IPART/ Productivity Commission inquiries

The Minister was asked whether the Department had reviewed the recommendations of the Independent Price and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) gaming inquiry. The Minister stated that the Department is considering the recommendations, and that the Government would deal with them in line with what it is doing with the Productivity Commission.

Some Members of the Committee are concerned that the Government has not given an official response to the recommendations of these bodies, apart from recently tabled legislation, particularly the recommendation that NSW should have an Independent Regulatory Authority.

Casino

The Minister was questioned about the anticipated increase in crowds visiting the Casino during the year of the Olympics. He indicated that this issue will be taken into account in the Government's whole of government approach to gambling-related activities, but did not provide any specific details as to how this would be done.

Additional hotel poker machines

The Minister was asked whether the Government has any plans to option any further poker machines at the conclusion of the current license period. The Minister replied that this is, by legislation, a matter for the Treasurer. The Committee notes that in answers to a number of other questions the Minister stated that decisions regarding aspects of gaming would be determined by a whole of government approach.

Hunter Development

Hunter Advantage Fund

The Minister provided the Committee with information about the projects funded to date under the Hunter Advantage Fund.

Possible relocation of Hazelton Airlines to Newcastle

The Minister confirmed that discussions were taking place with Hazelton Airlines about the company's possible relocation to the Hunter, but that the company was also having discussions with the ACT Government and representatives from Dubbo and other regional locations.

Honeysuckle Development

The Minister outlined some of the ongoing problems with the Honeysuckle Development.

Public Works and Services

The Committee heard evidence from the Hon M Iemma MP, Minister for Public Works and Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship, at a public hearing held on 9 September 1999.

Matters discussed at the hearing included:

- the increase in the cost of upgrading the Conservatorium of Music;
- the extent of damage caused to heritage properties in Sydney by this year's hailstorm;
- the incidence of insolvency among contractors to Government and the effects on subcontractors; and
- the role of the Department in projects based in the State asset acquisition program.

Urban Affairs and Planning, Aboriginal Affairs, Housing

The Committee heard evidence from the Hon Dr A Refshauge MP, Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Minister for Housing, together with officers of relevant departments and agencies, at a public hearing held on 15 September 1999.

The Committee had placed a number of questions on notice prior to the hearing, relating to the Aboriginal Affairs portfolio area. The Minister provided written answers to these questions at the completion of the hearing.

Matters raised during the hearing include those summarised below.

Year 2000

The Minister outlined measures being taken in the Department of Housing to manage the risks associated with the Year 2000.

Bidwill Estate

Expenditure on the Bidwill Estate project in Western Sydney and the steps being taken to address problems at Bidwill Square and Bidwill Reserve were discussed.

Public housing

The Minister was questioned in relation to public housing waiting lists and the 50 per cent reduction in the public housing supply programs.

Aboriginal Housing Office

Funding for the Aboriginal Housing Office was discussed.

Turnovers in public housing estates

The figures for turnovers in public housing estates in comparison to previous years and in comparison to turnovers for non-government organisations were considered.

Accommodation for homeless people

Measures undertaken by the Department to address homelessness were discussed, including the provision of accommodation and crisis accommodation, rental subsidies, and the establishment of an interdepartmental partnership of agencies responsible for services for homeless people.

Area Assistance Scheme

Expenditure of funds allocated to the Area Assistance Scheme was discussed.

Asset acquisitions of Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority

The Minister explained the 35 per cent reduction in asset acquisitions of the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, and confirmed that the Authority is proposing to acquire the White Bay power station and Rozelle marshalling yards sites.

Northside Storage Tunnel and the review of environmental factors

The Minister stated that the purpose of the review of environmental factors was not to ensure a time frame for completion of the Northside Storage Tunnel and that the review is not a guarantee of work time frame.

Heritage 2001

The Minister detailed projects funded under the Heritage 2001 Assistance Program.

Ministerial overseas travel

In response to questions, the Minister outlined the destinations he had visited and some of the activities undertaken during recent overseas travel. He stated he was unable to provide the Committee with an estimate of the costs of the travel but referred the Committee to the Department's Annual Report for this information. Some Members of the Committee sought more detailed information as to the expenditure, but the Minister stated that the documentation containing the details was not currently available. The Minister undertook to provide the dates of the travel and itinerary of meetings to the Committee.

Transport, Roads

The Committee heard evidence from the Hon C Scully MP, Minister for Transport and Minister for Roads, together with officers of relevant departments and agencies, at a public hearing held on 16 September 1999.

Matters raised during the hearing include those summarised below.

Debt servicing and the RTA

The Minister confirmed that the figure set aside to meet debt servicing costs meets all the debt servicing costs of the RTA.

Country Roads Program

The 1999/2000 budget allocation for the Country Roads Program was discussed. In response to questioning about whether the program could be extended to the Bucketts Way, the Minister indicated that spending on the Bucketts Way is a matter for the relevant councils. However, he indicated he has asked the RTA to examine whether there may be a case for additional funding.

Impact of competitive tendering for road maintenance services

The Minister outlined the aims of the move towards competitive tendering for road maintenance services and the strategies which have been adopted by the Government in this regard. In response to questioning the Minister stated that there has been no social impact statements as yet. The Minister advised that he has referred the issue of competitive road maintenance tendering to the Legislative Council Standing Committee on State Development for inquiry.

Road network infrastructure

The Minister was questioned about the possibility of local government authorities recovering funds from operators of heavy vehicles and machinery in compensation for damage caused to roads and bridges.

M5 motorway

Various issues concerning the M5 motorway were discussed, including the compensation which may be payable for delays in completion, and possible renegotiations on project costs due to changes to the project since the environmental impact statement process.

M2 and Hills Motorway Trust

The lease of M2 motorway land and the financial position of the Hills Motorway Trust were raised.

RTA buildings and energy efficiency

Measures to improve the energy efficiency of buildings administered by the RTA were discussed.

Diesel emission

The viability of a pollution monitoring process for diesel-powered vehicles was discussed.

Public transport infrastructure program

Various aspects of the public transport infrastructure program were raised.

Hills Motorway

Public transport competition with the Motorway and the compensation payable under the agreement between the Motorway and the Government was considered.

Greater use of public transport

Measures for encouraging the greater use of public transport were discussed.

CityRail

Matters associated with CityRail were considered, including the significance of special events to the increased figure for CityRail patronage; the extent of revenue growth during the year compared to the budget forecast; fare increases; and the loss of revenue due to fare evasion.

Wheelchair accessible taxis

The Minister told the Committee that the Government has issued 400 new taxi license plates for wheelchair-accessible taxis, but that the take-up rate for the plates has been disappointing. The Minister indicated that he would be happy to look at mechanisms to increase the number of wheelchair accessible taxis, including a suggestion by one of the Committee Members that stamp duty relief be offered to purchasers of the plates.

Northern beaches traffic

Current and proposed measures for relieving bottlenecks and traffic problems on the northern beaches were discussed.

Wheelchair lifts on Jet Cats

The level of use of lifts on Jet Cat ferries, and measures to promote public awareness of their existence, were discussed.

Staff reductions at railway stations

The Chief Executive of the State Rail Authority, Mr Lane, stated that there will be no increase in the number of stations which are unstaffed, and no reduction in the hours during which stations are staffed.

Security at railway stations

Issues were raised about security at railway stations, including the availability of staff to help in reducing the numbers of assaults and robberies on stations; measures to improve security; crime statistics for stations and trains; and levels of customer satisfaction regarding personal safety on trains and stations, particularly in the context of the Government's proposal to cut staffing rations at railway stations.

Questions on notice

The Committee received responses to a number of questions placed on notice prior to the Budget Estimates hearings. Copies of these responses are to be tabled in the Legislative Council in a separate volume.

The Committee has set 26 October as the date by which Ministers should respond to questions placed on notice at, or after, the hearing. Responses to these questions will be tabled in the Legislative Council once they are received.

Supplementary hearings

The Committee has not set a date for supplementary hearings at this stage.

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE No. 4

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

52nd Parliament

Meeting No. 1

Thursday 1 July 1999

at Parliament House, Sydney at 5.35pm

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms Gardiner (In the Chair)

Mr Cohen
Mr Hatzistergos
Mr Lynn

Mr Macdonald
Mr Manson (Saffin)
Mr Oldfield

Apologies

Nil.

Opening of Meeting

The Clerk declared the meeting open according to the Resolution establishing General Purpose Standing Committees adopted by the Legislative Council on Thursday, 13 May 1999.

The Clerk tabled the resolution.

In accordance with paragraph 7(1) of that Resolution, the Clerk announced receipt of a letter dated 1 July 1999 from the Government Whip, the Hon P Primrose MLC, nominating the Hon Andy Manson MLC to act as a substitute Member of the Committee for this meeting, replacing the Hon J Saffin MLC.

Election of Chair and Deputy Chair

The Clerk called for nominations for the Chair.

Mr Manson moved that Mr Macdonald be elected Chair of the Committee.

Mr Lynn moved that Ms Gardiner be elected Chair of the Committee.

There being no further nominations, the Clerk invited the two candidates to address the Committee.

Mr Macdonald addressed the Committee.

Ms Gardiner addressed the Committee.

The Clerk informed the Committee that there being two nominations, in accordance with the practice of the House, a ballot must be held.

Ballot papers were distributed by the Clerk to Committee Members and Members lodged their votes.

The Clerk invited the Members who nominated each candidate to act as scrutineers.

The Clerk announced the result of the ballot as follows:

Mr Macdonald – 3 votes

Ms Gardiner – 4 votes

Ms Gardiner, having a majority of the Members present and voting, was therefore declared elected Chair of General Purpose Standing Committee No 3.

Ms Gardiner took the Chair.

The Chair called for nominations for Deputy Chair.

Mr Oldfield moved that Mr Cohen be elected Deputy Chair of the Committee.

There being no further nominations, Mr Cohen was declared elected Deputy Chair.

Budget Estimates reference

The Chairman tabled the following reference from the House:

1. That the Budget Estimates and related documents presenting the amounts to be appropriated from the Consolidated Fund be referred to the General Purpose Standing Committees for inquiry and report.
2. That the Committees consider the Budget Estimates in accordance with the allocation of portfolios to the Committees.
3. For the purposes of this inquiry any Member of the House may attend a meeting of a Committee in relation to the Budget Estimates and question witnesses, participate in the deliberations of the Committee at such meeting and make a dissenting statement relating to the Budget Estimates, but may not vote or be counted for the purpose of any quorum.
4. The Committees must hear evidence on the Budget Estimates in public.

5. Not more than three Committees are to hear evidence on the Budget Estimates simultaneously.
 6. When a Committee hears evidence on the Budget Estimates, the Chair is to call on items of expenditure in the order decided on and declare the proposed expenditure open for examination.
 7. The Committees may ask for explanations from Ministers in the House, or officers of departments, statutory bodies or corporations, relating to the items of proposed expenditure.
 8. The report of a Committee on the Budget Estimates may propose the further consideration of any items.
 9. A daily Hansard record of the hearings of a Committee on the Budget Estimates is to be published as soon as practicable after each day's proceedings.
 10. The Committees have leave to sit during the sittings or any adjournment of the House.
 11. After a Committee has considered proposed expenditure referred to it by the House and agreed to its report to the House, the Committee must fix:
 - (a) a day for the submission to the Committee of any written answers or additional information relating to the proposed expenditure, and
 - (b) a day for the commencement of supplementary meetings of the Committee to consider matters relating to the proposed expenditure, which day must be not less than 10 days after the day fixed under subparagraph (a).
 12.
 - (1) A Member may lodge with a Committee, not less than 3 working days before the day fixed under subparagraph (11) (b), notice of matters relating to the written answers or additional information, or otherwise relating to the proposed expenditure referred to the committee, which the Member wishes to raise at the supplementary meetings of the Committee.
 - (2) Any notice lodged with a Committee must be forwarded by the Committee to the Minister in the House responsible for the matters to which the notice relates.
 13. A Committee may determine at any time the number and duration of any supplementary meetings.
 14. At a supplementary meeting, questions may be put to Ministers or officers of departments, statutory bodies or corporations, relating to matters of which notice has been given, and the proceedings of the Committee must be confined to those matters.
-

15. A Committee may report to the House any recommendation for further action by the House arising from the Committee's supplementary meetings.
16. Written questions relating to the Budget Estimates may be supplied to the Clerk of the Committee, who must distribute them to the relevant Minister and departments, and to Members of the Committee. Answers must be supplied to, and circulated by, the Clerk.
17. The Committees are to finally report to the House by the first sitting day in November 1999.⁷

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Cohen, that the Clerk schedule budget estimate hearings, relating to all portfolios under the purview of the committee, during the two week period from 6 September to 17 September 1999.

Resolved, on motion of Ms Saffin, that Members who, prior to the hearing days, wish to forward written questions to Ministers for written response, do so through the Committee Director; Ministers will be required to provide written answers by 1 September 1999 to questions received by the Director by 30 July 1999; copies of all questions forwarded to the Director are to be distributed to all other committee members.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Cohen, that Members advise the Committee Director of areas of interest within portfolios by 30 July 1999, and that the Committee Director then discuss these areas with the Chair, who will report back to Committee Members in relation to priority areas.

Procedural motions

Resolved in globo, on motion of Mr Hatzistergos:

That in accordance with the resolution of the Legislative Council of 11 October 1994, the Committee authorises the sound and television broadcasting as appropriate, of its public proceedings, unless otherwise ordered.

That arrangements for the calling of witnesses and for visits of inspection be left in the hands of the Chair and Director after consultation with the Committee.

That press statements on behalf of the Committee be made only by the Chair, if possible after consultation with the Committee.

That persons with specialist knowledge may be invited to assist the Committee.

That the Director be empowered to advertise and/or write to persons, bodies and organisations inviting written submissions relative to the terms of reference.

That the Chair and Director make arrangements for travel and visits of inspection for the Committee as a whole.

⁷ *Minutes of the Proceedings, No 14, 29 June 1999, pp 163-164.*

That, unless otherwise ordered, transcripts of evidence taken by the Committee be not made available to any person, body or organisation (other than a Member of the Committee); provided that each witness will be given a proof copy of their evidence for correction and return to the Director.

That, unless otherwise ordered, parties appearing before the Committee will not be represented by members of the legal profession.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5.55pm *sine die*.

Anna McNicol
Director

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE No. 4

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

52nd Parliament

Meeting No. 2

Tuesday 7 September 1999

at Parliament House, Sydney at 5.00pm

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms Gardiner (In the Chair)

Mr Bull (Lynn)

Mr Macdonald

Mr Cohen

Mr Oldfield

Mr Hatzistergos

Apologies

Ms Saffin

Budget Estimates reference

The Chair advised that Mr Bull would be representing Mr Lynn.

The Chair made a statement to Members regarding the broadcasting of proceedings.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Bull, that answers to written questions on notice forwarded for response prior to the hearings be provided by 5.00pm, Wednesday 8 September 1999, in relation to both Gaming and Racing, Hunter Development, and Urban Affairs and Planning, Aboriginal Affairs, Housing.

The Hon J R Face MP, Minister for Gaming and Racing, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Hunter Development was admitted and accompanied by the following advisors:

Department of Gaming and Racing

Mr K Brown, Director-General

Ms J Hennessy, Director, Policy and Development Division

Mr R McCann, Acting Director, Compliance Division, and Director, Liquor and Gaming

Mr M Foggo, Director, Revenue and Resource Management

Mr R Harrex, Director, Casino Surveillance Division

Mr D Loewenthal, Director, Racing and Charities Division

Minister's staff

Mr J Anderson, Policy Advisor

Mr F Smidt, Media Liaison Officer

The public and media were admitted.

The Chair made a statement regarding certain procedural matters during hearings on estimates.

The Minister tendered answers to written questions on notice received prior to the hearings.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Cohen, that the Committee accept the document.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Gaming and Racing, Hunter Development open for examination.

The Minister and relevant advisors answered questions by Members of the Committee.

The examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Gaming and Racing, Hunter Development concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public and media withdrew.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Cohen: That pursuant to the provisions of section 4 of the *Parliamentary Papers (Supplementary Provisions) Act 1975* and under the authority of Standing Order 252, the Committee authorises the Clerk of the Committee to publish the documents accepted by the Committee during today's hearing.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Bull, that any additional written questions relating to Gaming and Racing, Hunter Development, be lodged with the Director of the General Purpose Standing Committees by 5.00pm on Friday, 10 September 1999.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7.10pm until 7.30pm on Thursday, 9 September 1999.

Velia Mignacca
Clerk to the Committee

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE No. 4

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

52nd Parliament

Meeting No. 3

Thursday 9 September 1999

at Parliament House, Sydney at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms Gardiner (In the Chair)

Ms Burnswood (Hatzistergos)

Mr Lynn

Mr Macdonald

Apologies

Mr Cohen

Ms Saffin

Mr Oldfield

Tabled Documents

The Chair tabled a letter from the Hon A Refshauge MP, Deputy Premier and Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Aboriginal Affairs, and Housing, dated 8 September 1999, advising that answers to questions on notice forwarded to him prior to the hearings would be provided at the commencement of the hearing relating to Urban Affairs and Planning, Aboriginal Affairs, Housing.

Budget Estimates reference

The Chair advised that Ms Burnswoods would be representing Mr Hatzistergos.

The Chair made a statement to Members regarding the broadcasting of proceedings.

The Committee deliberated.

The Hon M Iemma MP, Minister for Public Works and Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisors:

Department of Public Works and Services

Mr D Persson, Director General

Mr C Johnson, NSW Government Architect

Mr A Renouf, Director, Executive Services Division

Mr S Mudge, Manager, Corporate Finance

Mr T Collins, Group General Manager, Project Management Group

Mr A Griffin, Group General Manager, Strategic Procurement Services Group

Mr D Lewis, Group General Manager, Corporate and Business Services Group

Mr T Smithies, Director, Policy Services Division

The public and media were admitted.

The Chair made a statement regarding certain procedural matters during hearings on estimates.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Public Works and Services open for examination.

The Minister and relevant advisors answered questions by Members of the Committee.

The examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Public Works and Services concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public and media withdrew.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Macdonald, that any additional written questions relating to Public Works and Services be lodged with the Director of the General Purpose Standing Committees by 5.00pm on Tuesday, 14 September 1999.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8.00pm until 7.30pm on Wednesday, 15 September 1999.

Velia Mignacca

Clerk to the Committee

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE No. 4

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

52nd Parliament

Meeting No. 4

Wednesday 15 September 1999

at Parliament House, Sydney at 5.35pm

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms Gardiner (In the Chair)

Mr Cohen
Mr Hatzistergos
Mr Lynn

Mr Macdonald
Mr Saffin
Mrs Sham-Ho (Oldfield)

Apologies

Nil

Tabled Documents

The Chair tabled a Memorandum from the Hon Richard Bull MLC, dated 15 September 1999, providing information about issues he wished raised in the Committee's Budget Estimates Report.

Budget Estimates reference

The Chair advised that Mrs Sham-Ho would be representing Mr Oldfield.

The Chair made a statement to Members regarding the broadcasting of proceedings.

The Committee deliberated.

The Hon Dr A J Refshauge MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Minister for Housing was admitted and accompanied by the following advisors:

Department of Urban Affairs and Planning

Ms Sue Holliday, Director General

Department of Housing

Mr Andrew Cappie-Wood, Director General

Department of Aboriginal Affairs

Mr Geoff Scott, Director General

Department of Public Works and Services

Mr Paul Campbell, Manager, Financial Services, Central Corporate Services Unit

Minister's staff

Ms Deborah Willcox, Chief of Staff

The public and media were admitted.

The Chair made a statement regarding certain procedural matters during hearings on estimates.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Urban Affairs and Planning, Aboriginal Affairs, Housing, open for examination.

The Minister and relevant advisors answered questions by Members of the Committee.

The Minister tendered answers to written questions on notice received prior to the hearings.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Cohen, that the Committee accept the document.

The examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Urban Affairs and Planning, Aboriginal Affairs, Housing concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public and media withdrew.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Hatzistergos: That pursuant to the provisions of section 4 of the *Parliamentary Papers (Supplementary Provisions) Act 1975* and under the authority of Standing Order 252, the Committee authorises the Clerk of the Committee to publish the documents tendered by the Minister during today's hearing.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Hatzistergos, that any additional written questions relating to Urban Affairs and Planning, Aboriginal Affairs, Housing, be lodged with the Director of the General Purpose Standing Committees by 5.00pm on Friday, 17 September 1999.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9.45pm until 7.30pm on Thursday, 16 September 1999.

Velia Mignacca
Clerk to the Committee

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE No. 4

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

52nd Parliament

Meeting No. 5

Thursday 16 September 1999

at Parliament House, Sydney at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms Gardiner (In the Chair)

Mr Cohen
Mr Hatzistergos
Mr Lynn

Mr Oldfield
Mr Saffin
Mr Tsang (Macdonald)

Apologies

Nil

Budget Estimates reference

The Chair advised that Mr Tsang would be representing Mr Macdonald.

The Chair made a statement to Members regarding the broadcasting of proceedings.

The Committee deliberated.

The Hon P C Scully MP, Minister for Transport and Minister for Roads, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisors:

Department of Transport

Mr J Murray, Director-General
Mr J Hall, Director, Transport Safety Bureau
Mr P Hayes, Director, Policy
Mr A Rogers, Manager, Policy Co-ordination

State Rail Authority

Mr S Lane, Chief Executive
Mr R Noyes, Chief Financial Officer

Rail Access Corporation

Mr J Cowling, Chief Executive
Mr S Foster, Manager, Corporate Relations

State Transit Authority

Mr R Wilson, Acting Chief Executive
Mr P Dunn, General Manager, Finance

Waterways Authority

Mr M Taylor, Chief Executive Officer
Mr K Bywater, Finance and Corporate Services Manager
Mr B Stanwell, Finance Manager

Roads and Traffic Authority

Mr P Forward, Chief Executive
Mr C Ford, Director, Road Safety and Traffic Management
Mr M Hannon, Acting Director, Road Network Infrastructure
Mr P Scarlett, Director, Finance
Mr L Wielinga, Manager, Pacific Highway Services
Ms J Stricker, General Manager, Environment and Community and Policy

FreightCorp

Mr L di Bartolomeo, Managing Director

The public and media were admitted.

The Chair made a statement regarding certain procedural matters during hearings on estimates.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Transport, Roads open for examination.

The Minister and relevant advisors answered questions by Members of the Committee.

The examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Transport, Roads concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public and media withdrew.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Lynn, that any additional written questions relating to Transport, Roads, be lodged with the Director of the General Purpose Standing Committees by 5.00pm on Monday, 20 September 1999.

The Committee deliberated.

The Committee agreed that notice of any specific issues Members wish to be raised in the Committee's report on the estimates be provided to the Clerk to the Committee by 5.00pm on Monday, 20 September 1999.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved on motion of Ms Saffin, that, once the Committee's draft report on the estimates has been prepared and circulated to Members, a date and time will be set for the Committee to meet and deliberate on that draft.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9.50pm *sine die*.

Velia Mignacca
Clerk to the Committee

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE No. 4

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

52nd Parliament

Meeting No. 6

Wednesday 20 October 1999

at Parliament House, Sydney at 9.00am

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms Gardiner (In the Chair)

Mr Cohen	Mr Oldfield
Mr Hatzistergos	Mr Saffin
Mr Lynn	

Apologies

Mr Macdonald

Confirmation of minutes

Resolved, on motion of Mr Cohen, that the minutes of meetings number 1 to 5 be confirmed.

Budget Estimates reference

The Chair submitted her draft report entitled "Report on Budget Estimates 1999-2000" which, having been circulated to each Member of the Committee, was accepted as being read.

The Committee proceeded to consider the draft report.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Lynn, that the report be adopted and that the report be signed by the Chair and presented to the House.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Lynn, that 5pm on Tuesday, 26 October 1999 be fixed as the deadline for the return of answers to questions placed on notice in relation to each of the portfolios examined by the Committee, and that this return date be conveyed to the relevant Ministers and the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, by the Director of the General Purpose Standing Committees.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Lynn, that the answers to all questions placed on notice and referred to Ministers for response and any tabled documents accepted by the Committee during the budget estimates hearings be circulated to members and made public upon their receipt by the Director of the General Purpose Standing Committees, and included in a Second Report on the Budget Estimates hearings to be tabled in the House by the Chair.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9.30am *sine die*.

Anna McNicol
Director