

General Purpose Standing Committee No 1

Budget Estimates 2001-2002

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Terms of Reference

- 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 3 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) The Committees present a final report to the House by Thursday 6 September 2001.

These terms of reference were referred to the Committee by the Legislative Council on 29 May 2001 (Minutes of Proceedings No 100, p 969).

Committee Membership

Rev Hon Fred Nile MLC Christian Democratic Party *Chair*

Hon Tony Kelly MLC Australian Labor Party *Deputy Chair*

Hon Don Harwin MLC Liberal Party

Hon Peter Primrose MLC Australian Labor Party

Hon Patricia Forsythe MLC Liberal Party

Hon Henry Tsang MLC Australian Labor Party

Hon Dr Peter Wong MLC Unity Party

Other Members who attended the hearings

Hon Michael Gallacher MLC Liberal Party

Hon James Samios MLC Liberal Party

Jan Burnswoods MLC Australian Labor Party

Hon Charlie Lynn MLC Liberal Party

Hon Doug Moppett MLC National Party

Lee Rhiannon MLC Greens

Hon John Jobling MLC Liberal Party

Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC National Party

Hon Ian West MLC Australian Labor Party

Hon Richard Colless MLC National Party

Hon Amanda Fazio MLC Australian Labor Party

Hon Greg Pearce MLC Liberal Party

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Chairman's Foreword

General Purpose Standing Committee No 1 has examined the Budget Estimates for 2001-2002 for the portfolio areas of:

Premiers, Arts and Citizenship

Treasury, State Development

Education and Training

Special Minister of State, Assistant Treasurer, Industrial Relations

The Legislature

The Committee expresses its appreciation to the Premier, relevant Ministers and officers of the departments and organisations, and the President of the Legislative Council and officers of the Parliament who appeared before it.

The Rev Hon Fred Nile MLC
Chairman

Introduction

Referral of the 2001-2002 Budget Estimates

On 29 May 2001 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.¹ Each Committee was required to examine the Budget Estimates for their relevant portfolios and report to the House by Thursday 6 September 2001.²

Examination of the Budget Estimates

General Purpose Standing Committee No 1 examined the Budget Estimates and related documents for its portfolios at a series of public hearings held on the following dates:

- 20 June 2001 Special Minister of State, Assistant Treasurer, Minister for Industrial Relations
- 22 June 2001 Education and Training
- 22 June 2001 The Legislature
- 25 June 2001 Treasury and State Development
- 2 July 2001 Premier, Arts and Citizenship

This report summarises the main issues discussed at each hearing. The full transcript of evidence taken at these hearings can be found at the Committee's Web page accessible via the Parliament's home page at: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au. Hard copies of the transcript can be obtained by contacting the General Purpose Standing Committee Secretariat on **02 9230 3544**

During these hearings, Ministers took a number of questions on notice. In addition the Committee resolved to lodge written questions on notice for the portfolio areas of Treasury, State Development, Premier, Arts and Citizenship. The Committee is pleased to note that answers have been provided to all questions placed on notice. Copies of the questions and answers can be found at the Committee's Web page at the above address or by contacting the secretariat on the above number. Appendix 3 contains details of response times for questions placed on notice by the Committee as part of the 2001-2002 Budget Estimates and related documents inquiry.

A number of documents were tabled during the Committee's public hearings. A list of tabled documents appears at Appendix 2. Where possible, copies of these documents have been placed at the Committee's Web page accessible via the above address. Arrangements for the inspection of tabled documents can be made by contacting the General Purpose Standing Committee Secretariat on the above telephone number.

Relevant minutes of the Committee's proceedings appear at Appendix 4.

¹ Minutes of Proceedings, No 100, 29 May 2001. See Appendix 1 for more information about the General Purpose Standing Committees.

² Resolution of 29 May 2001, para 11.

Chapter 1 Special Minister of State, Assistant Treasurer and Industrial Relations

The Committee heard from the Hon John Della Bosca, MLC, Special Minister of State, Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Industrial Relations, together with Dr C Gellatly, Director-General of the Premier's Department, Miss K McKenzie, General Manager and Mr P Burows, Director of Finance of WorkCover New South Wales, Mr D Bowen, General Manager of the Motor Accidents Authority, Mr G Barnden, Director and Ms M Swain, Senior Policy Officer of the Office of Drug Policy, and Mrs P Manser, Acting Director-General of the Department of Industrial Relations at a public hearing held on Wednesday 20 June 2001.

A list of the issues discussed at the hearing is provided below. For further details on these matters, see the Hansard record for this hearing. During the course of this hearing two documents were tabled. For a list of tabled documents see Appendix 2.

WorkCover

- Number of unfair dismissal claims filed against WorkCover
- Current state of workers compensation matters regarding employees or staff of WorkCover
- The New South Wales Workers compensation scheme deficit
- WorkCover's monitoring role over claims against other Government agencies
- Breakdown of the current WorkCover deficit between the private and public sectors
- Proportion of the WorkCover deficit that can be attributed to Common Law claims.
- Breakdown of the proportion of workers' compensation claims between the private and public sectors.
- Consideration of a debt reduction levy to reduce the WorkCover deficit.
- Department of Public Works and Services claim of immunity from prosecution by the WorkCover Authority for alleged breaches of the Occupational Health and Safety Act
- Investment policy for the Insurance Guarantee fund
- Workers compensation claims from Parliament House staff

- Details of staffing and funding of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation Development Unit at WorkCover
- Conclusion date for five Working Groups dealing with injuries to the lower extremities, upper extremities, nervous system, spine and psychological injuries
- Legal and other costs incurred by WorkCover defending the Port Kembla Hotel and the Port Kembla RSL Club in a passive smoking claim

The Department of Industrial Relations

- Cash assets increase within the Department of Industrial Relations
- Role of the Department of Industrial Relations in monitoring the use of workers superannuation and other workers entitlements as an internal cash loan by large institutions

The Office of Drug Policy

- Costs incurred to date by the Government in establishing and supervising the injecting room in Kings Cross
- Procedure and methodology for evaluation of the Kings Cross injecting room
- Community drug action teams
- Drug education for school age children
- Co-ordination of activities and teams providing drug and youth counselling in Cabramatta
- Increase in residential provision treatment places and funding since the 1999 Drug Summit
- Number of people undergoing rehabilitation for illicit drug use and the cost of rehabilitation over the previous 12 months
- Increase in the value of seizures from convicted drug dealers

The Motor Accidents Authority (MAA)

- Effect of the collapse of HIH on green slip premium levels
- Effect of the collapse of HIH on the Motor Accidents Authority liabilities

- Number of compulsory third party insurance premiums collected between 30 June 1999 and 30 June 2000 and 30 June 2000 and 30 June 2001
- Average greenslip premium for owners of metropolitan passenger vehicles
- Possible monitoring by MAA (as the nominal defendant) of HIH prior to its insolvency
- Dissemination of information about the new motor accidents scheme and assistance to help motor vehicle owners in New South Wales
- Review of discount premiums for pensioners aged under 55 years by the MAA
- Number of motor vehicle accident injury claims between 5 October 1999 to 30 June 2000 and 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001

Assistant Treasurer

- Estimated cost to the State Government of outstanding payroll tax owed by the collapse of the HIH Insurance Group
- Operating deficit of the Building and Construction Industry Long Service Leave Payment Corporation

Chapter 2 Education and Training

The Committee heard from the Hon J Aquilina MP, Minister for Education and Training, together with Dr Ken Boston, Director General and Managing Director, TAFE New South Wales, Mr K Dixon, General Manager, Finance, Ms J McClelland, Deputy Director General (Corporate Services), Mr J Burkhardt, General Manager of Properties, and Mr C Taggart, Director of Corporate and Management Accounting, all of the Department of Education and Training, and Mr J Ward, General Manager, and Mr D Murphy, Director, Finance and Administration, of the Office of the Board of Studies at a public hearing held on Friday 22 June 2001.

A list of issues discussed at the hearing is outlined below. For further details on these matters see the Hansard record of the hearing.

Department of Education and Training

- Date the “Building the Future” consultation report and colour brochure sent to printers, date the proposal commenced
- Employment by the Department of qualified demographers
- Enrolment figures in government schools in past five years in the inner city and inner suburbs
- Enrolment figures in non-government schools over the past five years in the inner city and inner suburbs
- Enrolment changes for Ultimo Public School over the past 10 years
- Land valuations on school properties
- Inclusion of Erskineville Public School in the “Building the Future” review
- Provision of Valuer-General’s advice on other New South Wales school sites
- Naremburn School – Unit for behaviourally disturbed students
- Improvements to internet access for schools
- Impact of the GST on the Department of Education and Training
- Variation in direct funding between government and non-government schools
- Enrolment levels in public schools
- Rationale for the decrease in assistance to students via the ESL program

- Multicultural education strategy
- Number of children expelled or suspended from government and non-government schools over the last financial year
- Number of Wards of the Court or in substitute care from the expelled or suspended group
- Procedure to be followed for the closure of schools
- Allocation of the State's interest subsidies to private schools
- Impact of new funding allocation formula on government schools
- Student to teacher ratios in the public school system
- Termination/redundancy payment for Mr Patrick Low
- Amount of annual Commonwealth funding for New South Wales schools
- School alarms – performance indicators, false alarms, response times
- Tendering process for additional security matters
- Global budget allocation per student for schools
- Aims and purposes of new special schools and tutorial centres for students with disruptive behaviour
- Policy regarding heritage items in schools to be closed
- Amount of increase in capital works funding in this year's budget
- Amount of increase in capital works funding in this year's budget for rural and regional schools
- Total budgeted expenditure for 2001-02 for programs in the Education and Training portfolio providing access and equity for ethnic communities
- Programs to address the needs of students with disruptive behaviour
- Proposed action to address gender differences in achievement in literacy.
- The disproportionate number of female teachers in the schools system
- Refurbishment of the Conservatorium of Music
- Recipients of grants to non-profit organisations

- State-wide shortage of teachers
- The discrepancy between the July 3% pay rise for TAFE teachers and related staff and the 2.4% increase allocated in the budget for employee costs
- Budgetary allocation to the School of the Air
- Plans for the old Dubbo High School site
- Trial of pre-school facilities via the School of the Air

Chapter 3 **The Legislature**

The Committee heard from the Hon Dr Meredith Burgmann MLC, President of the Legislative Council of New South Wales, together with Mr J Evans, Clerk of the Parliaments, Ms L Lovelock, Deputy Clerk, Mr G McGill, Financial Controller, Mr M Wilkinson, Clerk Assistant-Procedure and Administration, Mr W Cahill, Clerk-Assistant Committees and Usher of the Black Rod, Mr R Brian, Parliamentary Librarian, Mr R Walker, Manager, Building Services, Mr A Shariat, Manager, Information Technology Services at a public hearing on Friday 22 June 2001.

The following issues were discussed at the hearing. For further details on these matters, see the Hansard record for this hearing.

The Legislature

- Budget Papers error relating to Related Revenue – minor sales of goods and services
- Reduction in the Legislature’s annual budget
- Budget reductions and their effect on the operations of Parliament
- Staffing for Members
- Supplementation from Treasury for shared staff
- Standard of videoing of the Legislative Council Chamber
- Purchase of electronic equipment by preferred tenderers
- Becoming a preferred tenderer
- Dollar figure below which the tender process is not used
- Purchase of Gateway laptop computers and Hewlett Packard ScanJet 6300C scanners for Members
- Equipment held in storage
- Cost and quality of Internet services for country Members
- Facilities for Members with young children
- Cost of constructing a wheelchair access ramp for the Legislative Council Chamber
- Access to the Chamber from the Parliamentary Library at division times

- Occupational Health and Safety concerns for Parliamentary staff raised by lack of an appropriate after hours exit from Parliament House
- Removal of two senior positions from the Parliamentary Library
- Workers compensation claims by employees on Level 11 of Parliament House
- Dress code for male members of the Legislative Council
- Cost of compliance with the latest Parliamentary Remuneration Tribunal determination
- Cost of advertising by the Legislative Council in 2000-01
- Use of office space on level 6 by members of the media
- Proposed computer upgrade for Parliament
- Sale of books from the Parliamentary Library
- Use and deployment of Security Staff
- Entry of unauthorised persons into the Legislative Assembly Chamber
- An incident relating to entry of authorised staff during blockade of Parliament House

Chapter 4 Treasury and State Development

The Committee heard from the Hon M R Egan MLC, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council, together with Mr I Neal, Acting Secretary and Mr P Achterstraat, Executive Director of State Revenue, Treasury, Mr R Adby, Director-General of the Olympic Co-ordination Authority, and Mr L Harris, Director General of the Department of State and Regional Development at a public hearing on Monday 25 June 2001. A list of issues discussed at the hearing provided is below. For further details on these matters, see the Hansard record for this hearing.

Treasury

- GST – rollback, possibility of increase in the GST rate, administration and related costs
- Capital works expenditure
- Performance criteria set for the Chief Executive and Senior Executive Service officers within Treasury
- Release of executive contracts to the Auditor-General
- Projected increase in gambling revenue between 2001/02 and 2004/05
- Alternatives to the new women's gaol in south Windsor
- Payroll tax – number of small to medium-sized businesses paying payroll tax, number of employers liable for payroll tax, timetable for reduction
- Eligibility of New Zealanders for the First Home Owner Grants Scheme
- Transference of outstanding police fines to the Office of State Revenue
- Supervisory powers of the State in relation to non-bank financial institutions
- Length of the poker machine freeze and its impact on poker machines on income tax revenue from gambling
- Repayment of land tax overcharges
- Land tax paid by the New South Wales Government itself
- Sale of the Freight Rail Corporation and disposal of the funds thereof
- Collapse of HIH Insurance – outstanding payroll tax, role of Treasury in monitoring prudential viability of HIH and other companies providing CTP and

home ownership warranty insurance, economic impact of the collapse, Workcover exposure to HIH.

- Concessions to the Film Industry to film in New South Wales
- Section 10B of the Commonwealth income tax act
- Underestimation of Government revenue
- Treasury Managed Fund and maintenance of the State's triple A rating
- Monitoring of the WorkCover deficit of \$2.1 billion
- Lithgow aluminium smelter project – date of Treasurer's knowledge of project going to Queensland rather than New South Wales
- Effect of payroll tax and workers compensation costs on competitiveness of New South Wales businesses

Olympic Coordination Authority

- Proposed actions by Sydney Olympic Park Authority to promote the public use of the Olympic site at Homebush Bay
- Amount of business investment resulting from the Olympic Games in New South Wales
- Increase in tourism resulting from the Olympic Games
- Cooperation between the Sydney Olympic Park Authority and the Department of State and Regional Development
- High rise development plans for the Sydney Olympic Park
- Calculation of the estimated net cost of the Olympic and Paralympic Games

Chapter 5 Premier, Arts and Citizenship

The Committee heard from the Hon R J Carr MP, Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Citizenship, together with Dr C Gellatly, Director General, Mr A Smith, Executive Director and Chief of Staff and Ms H Silver, Director, Ministerial and Parliamentary Services of the Premier's Department, Mr R Wilkins, Director-General and Mr D Mitchell, Principal Policy Officer of the Cabinet Office, Mr S Kerkyasharian, Chairman, Community Relations Commission and Mr R Wilkins, Director-General and Ms R Lennon, Manager Finance of the Ministry for the Arts at a public hearing on Monday 2 July 2001. A list of the issues discussed appears below. For further details on these matters, see the Hansard record for this hearing.

Premier's Department

- Employment of Mr Walt Secord by the Premier's Office
- Workcover deficit
- Procedures in place for alerting Premier's Department to possible blow-outs in the State's finances and liabilities
- Role of Premier's Department in responding to issues raised by the Drug Summit, particularly relating to the Redfern area
- Youth initiatives within the Premier's Department Strategic Projects Division budget
- Update of activities of the Migrant Heritage Centre
- Details of the Rural and Regional Miscellaneous Grants Fund and the type of projects funded
- Task force on use of marijuana for cancer patients
- Powers of the Community Services Commission
- Spending on media monitoring
- Special reports to Cabinet, Premier and unforeseen expenses approved by the Premier
- Internet connection for local councils
- Request to Police Commissioner Ryan to attend the Cabramatta inquiry
- Policy relating to ministerial study trips – Eligibility to accompany Ministers, list of Ministers who have completed ministerial study trips, criteria for selection of ministerial study trips

- Government funding for public libraries
- Government policy in relation to kangaroo harvesting
- Alternatives to the new women's gaol at Windsor
- Premier's Council on Crime Prevention – funding and personnel, number of meetings chaired by the Premier, outcomes for this financial year and anticipated outcomes for next financial year

State Electoral Office

- Measures to prevent fraudulent enrolments
- Government commitment to remain within the joint Commonwealth-State electoral roll framework
- Procedures for registration of political parties

Minister for the Arts

- Additional funding for the Railway Street Theatre
- Exhibitions dealing with contributions of the Christian Church
- Expenditure for young film makers – productions assisted and funds provided
- Cultural Grants Program

Commission for Children and Young people

- Provision of policy advice to the Department of Community Services
- Oversight role relating to the DOCS hotline

Community Relations Commission (CRC)

- The role of the Community Relations Commission in ensuring that government departments provide information on policy or decisions taken in community languages
- Causes of the CRC expenditure for 2000-01 blowing out to \$13.466 million
- Reduction of staff within the CRC

- Reduced Grants and Community outreach expenditure
- Staff morale within the CRC
- Spending on Carnivale
- Effect of name change on the CRC
- Funding for the Ethnic Communities Council
- Outputs of the Community Services Program of the CRC
- Monitoring of non-English-language broadcasts for inflammatory or divisive material
- City Watch program at Cabramatta

Cabinet Office

- Impact of social policy legislation on the family
- Poker machine freezes
- Power of the Audit Office to provide independent review of government programs and activity
- Co-ordination of drug strategies between Premier's Department and Special Minister of State
- Operating costs of the Families First program

Appendix 1

Establishment, Powers and Portfolios of the General Purpose Standing Committees

Establishment, powers and portfolios of the General Purpose Standing Committees

Establishment of the General Purpose Standing Committees

The five General Purpose Standing Committees of the Legislative Council were first established in 1997.³ The committees were reappointed on 13 May 1999, shortly after the commencement of the present Parliament.⁴ Since the inception of the General Purpose Standing Committees, the Budget Estimates and related papers have been referred to them for inquiry and report.

The General Purpose Standing Committees have a majority of non-government members. Of the five General Purpose Standing Committees, three are chaired by Cross Bench members and two are chaired by Opposition members.

The functions of the General Purpose Standing Committees are to inquire into and report on:

- any matters referred to them by the House,
- the expenditure, performance or effectiveness of any department of government, statutory body or corporation,
- any matter in any annual report of a department of government, statutory body or corporation.⁵

Powers of the General Purpose Standing Committees

The General Purpose Standing Committees have power to:

- send for and examine persons, papers, records and things
- adjourn from place to place
- make visits of inspection within the State
- request the attendance of and examine Members of the House
- publish, before presentation to the House, submissions received and evidence taken in public and
- report from time to time their proceedings, evidence taken in public and recommendations.⁶

³ Minutes of Proceedings, No 65, 7 May 1997, p. 677.

⁴ Minutes of Proceedings, No 3, 13 May 1999, p. 62 (hereafter referred to as Resolution of 13 May 1999).

⁵ Resolution of 13 May 1999, para 3.

⁶ Resolution of 13 May 1999, para 8.

Portfolios

The five General Purpose Standing Committees have responsibility for Government Ministers' portfolio responsibilities,⁷ which are as follows:

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1

Premiers, Arts and Citizenship
Treasury, State Development
Education and Training
The Legislature
Special Minister of State, Assistant Treasurer, Industrial Relations

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2

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

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3

Police
Attorney General
Fair Trading, Sport and Recreation, Corrective Services
Juvenile Justice, Youth

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4

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

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

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

⁷ Resolution of 13 May 1999, para 1.

Appendix 2

Documents Tabled at Committee Hearings

Tabled documents

Wednesday 20 June 2001 - Special Minister of State, Assistant Treasurer, Industrial Relations

- *Comparison of Workers' Compensation Arrangements in Australian Jurisdictions*, no date
- *Evaluation Protocol for The Trial of a Medically Supervised Injecting Centre in Kings Cross*, dated Monday June 18, 2001

Appendix 3

Response Times for Questions on Notice

Response time for questions on notice

Apart from the portfolio of Premier, Arts and Citizenship, the Committee did not formally resolve to set specific dates by which a response to questions on notice would be sought. In each case, the Committee discussed an appropriate time frame for the provision of written answers with the Minister at the conclusion of the hearing and obtained the Minister's agreement to that time frame. The agreed time frames appear in the table below. The return date for answers in the table was calculated from the date that questions were sent to the Minister's office.

Minister/Presiding Officer	Hearing Date	Agreed Time Period	Date Questions Sent	Return Date for Answers	Date Answers Received
Hon R J Carr MP	2 July 2001	35 Days	4 July 2001	8 August 2001	9 August 2001
Hon M R Egan MLC	25 June 2001	35 Days	28 June 2001	3 August 2001	10 August 2001
Hon J J Della Bosca MLC	20 June 2001	3 Weeks	26 June 2001	17 July 2001	12 July 2001
Hon J J Aquilina MP	22 June 2001	3 Weeks	26 June 2001	17 July 2001	19 July 2001
Hon Dr M A Burgmann MLC	22 June 2001	3 Weeks	27 June 2001	18 July 2001	23 July 2001

Appendix 4

Minutes of Proceedings

Minutes No 52

Wednesday 20th June 2001

At Parliament House at 6:25pm.

1. **Members Present**

Rev Hon Fred Nile MLC (Chair)
Hon Tony Kelly MLC (Deputy Chair)
Hon Michael Gallacher MLC (Forsythe)
Hon Jim Samios MLC (Harwin)
Jan Burnswoods MLC (Tsang)
Hon Dr Peter Wong MLC
Hon Peter Primrose MLC
Hon Charlie Lynn MLC (participating)

2. **Apologies**

Nil

3. **Budget Estimates 2001-2002**

The Chair advised that Mr Samios would be representing Mr Harwin, Mr Gallacher would be representing Ms Forsythe and Ms Burnswoods would be representing Mr Tsang.

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

The Committee deliberated.

The Committee agreed to examine the Minister's portfolios in the following order: WorkCover, Department of Industrial Relations, Superannuation, Office of Drug Policy, Motor Accidents Authority.

The Committee agreed that they would exhaust questions on each subject matter in turn, rather than allocate fixed periods of time for particular Members' questions.

The Hon John Della Bosca MLC, Special Minister of State, Minister for Industrial Relations, Assistant Treasurer, Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Sector Management and Minister Assisting the Premier for the Central Coast was admitted and accompanied by the following advisers:

WorkCover

Ms Kate McKenzie, General Manager
Mr Peter Burrows, Director of Finance

Premier's Department

Dr Col Gellatly, Director General
Ms Trisha Dewar, Principal Project Manager, Public Sector Management Office

Motor Accidents Authority

Mr David Bowen, General Manager
Ms Jill Muddle, Principal Policy Officer
Ms Voula Athanasiou, Assistant Financial Controller

Office of Drug Policy

Mr Geoff Barnden, Director
Ms Marie Swain, Senior Policy Officer

Department of Industrial Relations

Ms Kate McKenzie, Director General
Ms Pat Manser, Acting Deputy Director General

Superannuation Administration Corporation

Mr Robert Frost, Chief Executive Officer

The public and media were admitted.

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

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of the Special Minister of State, Minister for Industrial Relations, Assistant Treasurer, Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Sector Management and Minister Assisting the Premier for the Central Coast open for examination.

The Minister and his advisers answered questions by Members of the Committee.

The Minister tendered a document to support his evidence.

Resolved on the motion of Dr Wong that the Committee accept the document.

The Minister tendered a second document to support his evidence.

Resolved on the motion of Ms Burnswoods that the Committee accept the document.

The Minister agreed to respond to questions taken on notice during the hearing within three weeks.

Examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of the Special Minister of State, Minister for Industrial Relations, Assistant Treasurer, Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Sector Management and Minister Assisting the Premier for the Central Coast concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public and media withdrew.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Dr Wong that under 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 two documents tabled by the Minister during this evening's meeting.

4. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 8.38pm until 9.30am on Friday 22 June 2001.

Tony Davies

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No 53

Friday 22nd June 2001

At Parliament House at 9.30am.

1. Members Present

Rev Hon Fred Nile MLC (Chair)
 Hon Patricia Forsythe MLC
 Hon Doug Moppett MLC (Harwin)
 Jan Burnswoods MLC (Kelly)
 Hon Dr Peter Wong MLC
 Hon Peter Primrose MLC
 Hon Henry Tsang MLC
 Lee Rhiannon MLC (participating)

2. Apologies

Nil

3. Minutes

Resolved on the motion of Ms Burnswoods that the minutes of meeting no 52 be confirmed.

4. Budget Estimates 2001-2002

The Chair advised that Mr Moppet would be representing Mr Harwin and Ms Burnswoods would be representing Mr Kelly.

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

The Committee deliberated.

The Committee agreed that they would allocate time for questions on a rotational basis as follows: Opposition – 20 minutes; Government – 20 Minutes; Dr Wong – 10 Minutes; Chair – 10 Minutes.

The Hon John Aquilina MP Minister for Education and Training was admitted and accompanied by the following advisers:

Department of Education and Training

Dr Ken Boston, Director General
 Ms Jan McClelland, Deputy Director General (Corporate Services)
 Mr Ken Dixon, General Manager of Finance
 Mr John Burkhardt, General Manager of Properties
 Mr Chris Taggart, Director of Corporate and Management Accounting

Office of the Board of Studies

Mr John Ward, General Manager

Mr David Murphy, Director, Finance and Administration

The public and media were admitted.

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

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Education and Training open for examination.

The Minister and his advisers answered questions by Members of the Committee.

The Minister agreed to respond to questions taken on notice during the hearing within three weeks.

Examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Education and Training concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

5. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 11.30am until 4.00pm on Friday 22 June 2001.

Tony Davies

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No 54

Friday 22nd June 2001

At Parliament House at 4:00pm.

1. Members Present

Rev Hon Fred Nile MLC (Chair)
 Hon John Jobling MLC (Forsythe)
 Hon Jim Samios MLC (Harwin)
 Hon Tony Kelly MLC
 Hon Dr Peter Wong MLC (until 5:15pm)
 Hon Peter Primrose MLC
 Hon Henry Tsang MLC

2. Apologies

Nil

3. Budget Estimates 2001-2002

The Chair advised that Mr Jobling would be representing Ms Forsythe and Mr Samios would be representing Mr Harwin.

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

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved on the motion of Mr Jobling that the Committee seek the President's advice as to whether she is willing to accept written questions on notice. In the event that the President agrees to accept such questions then a period of 35 days should be set for the return of such answers.

The Committee agreed that fixed periods of time would be allocated on a rotating basis for particular Members' questions, 20 minutes to the Opposition, 20 minutes to the Government, 10 minutes to Dr Wong and 10 minutes to the Chair.

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

The Hon Meredith Burgmann MLC, President of the Legislative Council, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisers:

Legislative Council

Mr John Evans, Clerk of the Parliaments
 Ms Lynn Lovelock, Deputy Clerk
 Mr Warren Cahill, Clerk Assistant-Committees and Usher of the Black Rod
 Mr Michael Wilkinson, Clerk Assistant-Procedure and Administration

Building Services

Mr Robert Walker, Manager

Parliamentary Accounts

Mr Greg McGill, Financial Controller

Information Technology Services

Mr Ali Shariat, Manager and Manager-Business Systems

Library

Mr Rob Brian, Parliamentary Librarian

The public and media were admitted.

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

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

The President and her advisers answered questions by Members of the Committee.

The President agreed to respond to questions taken on notice during the hearing within three weeks.

Examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio area of the Legislature concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

4. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 5.25pm until 5:30pm on Monday 25 June 2001.

Tony Davies

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No 55

Monday 25th June 2001

At Parliament House at 5:35pm.

1. **Members Present**

Rev Hon Fred Nile MLC (Chair)
 Hon Tony Kelly MLC (Deputy Chair)
 Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC (Forsythe)
 Hon John Jobling MLC (Harwin)
 Hon Peter Primrose MLC
 Hon Ian West MLC (Tsang)
 Hon Dr Peter Wong MLC (until 6:20pm)

2. **Budget Estimates 2001-2002**

The Chair advised that Miss Gardiner would be representing Ms Forsythe, Mr Jobling would be representing Mr Harwin and Mr West would be representing Mr Tsang.

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

The Committee deliberated.

The Committee agreed that fixed periods of time would be allocated on a rotating basis for particular Members' questions, 20 minutes to the Opposition, 20 minutes to the Government, 10 minutes to Dr Wong and 10 minutes to the Chair.

The Hon Michael Egan MLC, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisers:

Treasury

Mr Ian Neale, Acting Secretary
 Mr Robert Carling

Olympic Coordination Authority

Mr Robert Adby

Department of State and Regional Development

Mr Loftus Harris, Secretary

The public and media were admitted.

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

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Treasury and State Development open for examination.

The Minister and his advisers answered questions by Members of the Committee.

Examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Treasury and State Development concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The Minister agreed to respond to questions taken on notice during the hearing and written questions on notice relating to the budget estimates within 35 days.

The public and media withdrew.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved on the motion of Mr Jobling that under section 4 of the *Parliamentary Papers (Supplementary Provisions) Act 1975* and under the authority of the Standing Order 252, the Committee authorises the Clerk of the Committee to publish the answers provided to questions placed on notice by the Committee, as part of the 2001-2002 Budget Estimates and Related Papers inquiry, after these answers have been circulated to Committee Members.

3. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 7:34pm until Monday 2nd July at 5:30pm.

Tony Davies

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No 56

Monday 2nd July 2001

At Parliament House (Room 814/815) at 5:30 pm.

1. Members present

Rev Fred Nile MLC (Chair)
 Mr Richard Colless MLC (Pearce) till 5:35pm
 Ms Amanda Fazio MLC (Kelly)
 Ms Patricia Forsythe MLC
 Mr Greg Pearce MLC (Harwin) from 5:35pm
 Mr Peter Primrose MLC
 Mr Henry Tsang MLC
 Dr Peter Wong MLC

2. Budget Estimates 2001-2002

The Chair advised that Mr Harwin would be represented initially by Mr Colless and thereafter by Mr Pearce and that Ms Fazio would be representing Mr Kelly.

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

The Committee deliberated.

The Committee agreed that fixed periods of time would be allocated on a rotating basis for particular Members' questions, 20 minutes to the Opposition, 20 minutes to the Government, 10 minutes to Dr Wong and 10 minutes to Rev Nile.

The Hon Bob Carr MP, Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Citizenship, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisers:

Premier's Department

Dr Col Gellatly, Director General
 Mr Alex Smith, Executive Director and Chief of Staff
 Ms Helen Silver, Director, Ministerial and Parliamentary Services

The Cabinet Office

Mr Roger Wilkins, Director General
 Mr Darren Mitchell, Principal Policy Officer

Community Relations Commission

Mr Stepan Kerkyasharian, Chairperson

Ministry for the Arts

Mr Roger Wilkins, Director General
 Ms Rachel Lennon, Manager Finance

The public and media were admitted.

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

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Premier, Arts and Citizenship open for examination.

The Premier and his advisers answered questions by Members of the Committee.

The Premier agreed to respond to questions on notice during the hearing within three weeks.

The Premier agreed to take written questions on notice.

The Premier agreed to respond to written questions on notice relating to budget estimates within 35 days.

Examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of the Premier, Arts and Citizenship concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public and media withdrew.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Primrose, that: the Committee seek a response from the Premier to questions taken on notice during the hearing within three weeks.

Resolved, on motion of Ms Fazio, that: Members lodge any written questions on notice relating to the portfolio areas of Premier, Arts and Citizenship by 5:00pm, 3 July 2001.

Resolved, on motion of Ms Fazio, that: the Committee seek a response to written questions on notice within 35 days of 5.00pm, 3 July 2001.

3. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:35pm, *sine die*.

Steven Carr

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No 58

5 September 2001

At Parliament House at 12.00noon

1. Members Present

Revd Nile (in the Chair)
Mr West (Mr Kelly)
Mr Harwin
Mr Primrose
Mr Hatzistergos (Mr Tsang)

2. Apologies

Mrs Forsythe
Dr Wong

3. Substitution Advice

The Chair advised that the Hon Ian West MLC would be representing the Hon Tony Kelly MLC, and the Hon John Hatzistergos MLC would be representing the Hon Henry Tsang MLC.

4. Confirmation of minutes

Resolved on motion of Mr Primrose that the minutes of meetings 53, 54, 55, and 56 be confirmed.

5. Tabled documents

The Chair tabled the following documents:

5.1 Correspondence sent

- Letter dated 26 June 2001 from the Chair to the Hon John Della Bosca MLC regarding questions on notice
- Letter dated 26 June 2001 from the Chair to the Hon John Aquilina MP regarding questions on notice
- Letter dated 27 June 2001 from the Chair to the Hon Meredith Burgmann MLC regarding questions on notice
- Letter dated 28 June 2001 from the Chair to the Hon Michael Egan MLC regarding questions on notice
- Letter dated 4 July 2001 from the Chair to the Hon Bob Carr MP regarding questions on notice

5.2 Correspondence received

- Letter dated 11 July 2001 from the Hon Richard Amery MP on behalf of the Hon John Della Bosca MLC regarding answer to questions on notice.
- Letter dated 19 July 2001 from the Hon John Aquilina MP regarding answers to questions on notice.
- Letter received on 23 July 2001 from the Hon Meredith Burgmann regarding answers to questions on notice.
- Letter dated 8 August 2001 from the Hon Bob Carr MP regarding answers to questions on notice.

- Letter dated 8 August 2001 from the Hon Michael Egan MLC regarding answers to questions on notice.

6. Draft report on Budget Estimates 2001-2002

The Chair submitted his draft report entitled "Budget Estimates 2001-2002", which having been circulated to each member of the Committee was accepted as having been read.

The Committee proceeded to consider the draft report.

Resolved on the motion of the Hon Peter Primrose MLC that the draft report be adopted as the report of the Committee.

Resolved on the motion of the Hon Ian West MLC that the report be signed by the Chair and presented to the House in accordance with the resolution referring the Budget Estimates to the Committee.

Resolved on the motion of the Hon John Hatzistergos MLC that transcripts of evidence, tabled documents, answers to questions and relevant correspondence be tabled in the House with the report and made public.

7. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 12:10 pm until 2:00 pm.

Annie Marshall

Clerk to the Committee