



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO 1

Report on Budget Estimates 1999-2000

Volume 1

1

General Purpose Standing Committee No 1

**Report on
Budget Estimates 1999-2000**

Volume 1

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Chairman's Foreword

General Purpose Standing Committee No 1 has examined the Budget Estimates for 1999-2000 for the portfolio areas of:

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

In this report, the Committee considers a number of specific matters relating to the various portfolio areas, and comments on one issue of a more general nature.

The Committee expresses its appreciation for the assistance given by 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 Revd Hon Fred Nile MLC
Chairman

Committee Membership

The Revd Hon Fred Nile MLC (Chair)
The Hon Tony Kelly MLC (Deputy Chair)
The Hon Patricia Forsythe MLC
The Hon Doug Moppett MLC
The Hon Peter Primrose MLC
The Hon Henry Tsang MLC
The Hon Dr Peter Wong MLC

Other Members who attended the Hearings

The Hon Richard Bull MLC
The Hon Jan Burnswoods MLC
The Hon Don Harwin MLC
The Hon Ian Macdonald MLC
The Hon Jim Samios 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 to 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.

Premier, the Arts, Citizenship

The Committee heard evidence from the Hon Bob Carr MP, Premier, Minister for the Arts and Minister for Citizenship, together with officers of relevant departments, at a public hearing held on 7 September 1999.

A brief summary of issues discussed at the hearing is provided below.

Premier

Funding for the operations of the Council on the Cost of Government

Mr Carr was questioned about the ongoing funding that has been provided for the operations of the Council on the Cost of Government since the statute under which the Council operated expired on 1 May 1999.

Remuneration of Professor Bob Walker

Mr Carr undertook to provide information about the salary paid to Professor Bob Walker, both in his capacity as Chair of the Council on the Cost of Government and as Chair of the Superannuation Administration Corporation.

Bligh House

Mr Carr answered questions about the intentions of the Government to move the Council on the Cost of Government from Governor Macquarie Tower to the currently vacant Bligh House.

Staffing structure of the Council on the Cost of Government

Mr Carr undertook to provide the Committee with information about the staffing structure of the Council on the Cost of Government.

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.*

Release of the Sixth Report of the Council on the Cost of Government

The timing of the release of the Sixth Report of the Council on the Cost of Government in December 1998 was discussed.

Content of the Sixth Report of the Council on the Cost of Government

Mr Carr was questioned about the content of the Sixth Report of the Council on the Cost of Government.

Staffing strategy for the Commission for Children and Young People

Mr Carr provided information about the staffing strategy for the Commission for Children and Young people.

Role of the Commission for Children and Young People in screening of government and non-government employees

Mr Carr undertook to provide information about the role of the Commission for Children and Young People in screening of government and non-government employees.

Independence of the Commissioner for Children and Young People

Concerns were raised about the independence of the newly appointed Commissioner for Children and Young People, Ms Gillian Calvett, as she has previously worked in the Cabinet Office and as a Ministerial Advisor. Mr Carr informed the Committee that Ms Calvett had been selected by a panel comprising the former Chief Executive of the Children's Hospital, the New South Wales Ombudsman, the Director-General of the Premier's Department and the Deputy Director-General of the Cabinet Office.

Increase in miscellaneous grants from State Administration Services

The Committee was provided with information about the increase in the revised 1998/99 budget for miscellaneous grants from the State Administration Services program.

Drug Summit

Mr Carr advised that issues associated with possible United Nations or High Court challenges that might arise from moves by the government to allow legal injecting rooms to operate in New South Wales would be addressed in the Government's second reading speech on proposed legislation to be introduced into Parliament shortly.

Investigation of fraudulently registered parties by the State Electoral Office

Mr Carr advised the Committee that rather than engage officers to investigate fraudulently registered parties, the Government would prefer to address the issue by amending the Electoral Act.

Investigation of internet fraud and corruption by the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC)

Mr Carr undertook to provide the Committee with the public sector guidelines aimed at preventing the misuse of the internet and e-mail within government departments and agencies.

Citizenship

Funding for the Community Relations Commission

Mr Carr advised that the current allocation for the Ethnic Affairs Commission would be transferred to the new Community Relations Commission, but that no additional funding would be provided for the expanded role of the new entity.

Interpreter and translation services

The Committee was advised that the 5.8 per cent cut in funding for interpreter and translation services was due to a decreasing demand for government services, arising from an increasing tendency for private sector services to be used.

Role of the Ethnic Affairs Commission / Community Relations Commission

In response to questions about the role of the Ethnic Affairs Commission and its replacement by the new Community Relations Commission, Mr Carr advised that the primary role of the new Community Relations Commission was the provision of services.

Upgrading of the Ethnic Affairs Commission's leased premises at Ashfield

Mr Carr undertook to provide information about costs associated with upgrading the Ethnic Affairs Commission's leased premises at Ashfield to meet occupational health and safety and fire safety standards.

Change of name of the Ethnic Affairs Commission

Concern was expressed by Committee Members about the lack of consultation with ethnic communities about the proposed change of name of the Ethnic Affairs Commission to the Community Relations Commission.

Arts

State Library equity reserves

The Director-General of the Premier's Department undertook to provide an explanation about why the State Library's equity reserves had decreased from \$2 million in 1998/99 to zero in 1999/2000.

Increase in Art Gallery grants and contributions

Mr Carr undertook to provide details of gifts and sponsorships provided to the Art Gallery in 1998/99.

Purchase of Greek cup by the Powerhouse Museum

Mr Carr undertook to provide the Committee with details about the acquisition of a fifth century Greek Cup by the Powerhouse Museum.

Treasury, State Development

The Committee heard evidence from the Hon Michael Egan MLC, Treasurer and Minister for State Development, together with officers of relevant departments and agencies at a public hearing held on 8 September 1999.

A brief summary of issues discussed at the hearing is provided below.

Treasury

Increasing State Government revenue

Mr Egan stated despite decreasing taxes, it was expected that revenue would increase in coming years due to ongoing economic growth.

Tendering out of Group Homes

Mr Egan confirmed that Treasury had advised the Minister for Community Services to tender out Group Homes.

Payroll tax rate reduction

When questioned about the payroll tax rate, Mr Egan stated that the payroll tax rate was currently set at 6.4 per cent and would be reduced to 6 per cent.

Cost of public sector redundancies policy

Mr Egan reaffirmed the government's commitment to a no forced redundancies policy.

Projected electricity revenue

Mr Egan indicated that the introduction of a competitive electricity market is expected to draw on the surplus electricity capacity in NSW, which will lead to an increase in revenue.

Financial position of WorkCover

Mr Egan indicated that an additional package of reforms is due to be introduced in the current Parliament to address concerns about the financial position of WorkCover.

Requests by government agencies for additional funding

While Mr Egan and the Secretary to the Treasury stated they had not received any requests for additional funds, the Treasurer undertook to review whether any requests had been made to Treasury officials.

Treasury response to the Auditor-General's criticisms

Mr Egan and the Secretary to the Treasury provided information about changes to accounting procedures.

Impact of the GST on the State Budget

Mr Egan indicated that the introduction of the Commonwealth goods and services tax (GST) would impact on the State Budget in a number of ways, with the implementation of various measures staggered up until 2005. Mr Egan advised that states and territories have been assured

by the Commonwealth that 'top up' payments will be provided until full implementation of the GST package in 2004/2005. A number of taxes will be abolished, including the Commonwealth wholesale sales tax, the bed tax in New South Wales and the Northern Territory, financial institutions duty, share transfer duty and debits tax.

Bad debt collection and debtor management

Mr Egan advised that he was yet to consider the issue of outsourcing bad debt collection and that he would be "happy to look at" outsourcing debtor management.

Remuneration and workload of the Chair of the Superannuation Administration Corporation

The Committee was advised that Professor Bob Walker, Chairman of the Superannuation Administration Corporation, is paid \$52,000 for his work for the Corporation.

Council on the Cost of Government

The Council on the Cost of Government was discussed in some detail. Mr Egan indicated that significant effort was made to ensure that Treasury did not duplicate the work of the Council on the Cost of Government and that reference is made to the Council's recommendations when formulating the state budget. The issue of corporate services reform was also discussed.

Impact of a cap on the number of poker machines on gambling taxes

The Secretary to the Treasury indicated that a restriction on the number of poker machines would not be expected to change greatly the amount of gambling revenue, as it would merely increase the intensity of use of existing machines.

Funding for new women's prison

Mr Egan confirmed that construction of a new women's prison at Windsor is due to commence in 1999 and should be completed in 2002, at a total cost \$42 million.

NSW fiscal position

Mr Egan provided the Committee with four pages of written information about the fiscal position in New South Wales, reductions to government taxes, and job increases in New South Wales since 1995. The information provided included details of initiatives to reduce government debt, information about budget surpluses during the period from 1995/96 to 1998/99, and highlighted the State's triple A credit rating.

State Development

Construction of Grahame Park stadium on the Central Coast

Mr Egan was questioned about the financial assistance provided by the Government through the State and Regional Development Fund for the construction of Grahame Park stadium on the Central Coast.

Specialist investment and trade advisor for Hong Kong and China

Mr Egan advised that \$100,000 had been provided in the 1999/2000 budget for an initiative to appoint a specialist investment and trade advisor responsible for sourcing trade and investment opportunities and identifying potential business partners in Hong Kong and China.

Regional headquarters tax concession program

The benefits of the regional headquarters tax concession program were discussed.

Funding for the Federation of Gay Games

Mr Egan advised that to the best of his knowledge the Government had not provided financial assistance to the winning bid for the Federation of Gay games, to have them held in Sydney.

The Legislature

The Committee heard evidence from the Hon Meredith Burgmann MLC, President of the Legislative Council, together with officers of the Parliament at a public hearing held on 14 September 1999.

A brief summary of issues discussed at the hearing is provided below.

Increase in retained revenue

Ms Burgmann advised that the \$20,000 increase in the Legislative Council's 1998/99 original and revised budget estimates figures for retained revenue was associated with the trade-in of computers and the sale of old photocopiers.

Introduction of rental charges for Ministerial offices

Ms Burgmann advised the Parliament has decided to charge all Ministers rent for their Ministerial offices.

Consideration of rental charges for media offices

While stating that there was no current proposal to charge the media rent for the use of office space on level 6 of Parliament House, Ms Burgmann advised the matter was "always under

Increase in maintenance costs

Ms Burgmann advised that the increase in the Legislative Council maintenance costs in 1998/99 was associated with changes to accommodation for committee staff on level 8.

Formal opening of Parliament on 7 September 1999

Ms Burgmann was asked a number of questions about the formal opening of Parliament on 7 September 1999. Ms Burgmann advised that the preliminary estimate for the cost of the opening was \$15,830, and this was approximately half that of the net cost of the last formal openings. Ms Burgmann also provided information about the number of guests attending the opening and various decisions about the arrangements on the day.

Occupational health and safety issues and Parliament House office accommodation

The adequacy of certain office accommodation in Parliament House, including that of staff in the President's office and of the media, was discussed.

Transfer of Legislative Council Members from level 12 to level 11

Ms Burgmann indicated that the transfer of Legislative Council Members from level 12 to level 11 of Parliament House in 1998/99 was for both occupational health and safety and practical reasons, with the total cost of the transfer amounting to \$662,039.

Conversion of offices after the 1999 State Election

Ms Burgmann advised that the total cost of converting existing Legislative Council offices for use by staff of cross bench and independent Members after the 1999 State Election was \$139,989. Ms Burgmann undertook to provide additional information about how much of this work actually undid some of the previous work associated with the transfer of Members from level 12 to level 11.

Legal costs relating to Egan v Willis and Egan v Chadwick and others

The Committee was advised that the cost of legal advice and representation to the President and Officers of the Legislative Council for the matters of *Egan v Willis* and *Egan v Chadwick and others*, Ms Burgmann in 1998/99 was \$100,076.

Installation of listening devices (bugs) in Parliamentarians' offices

Ms Burgmann advised she had never given, and would never give, approval for any listening device to be installed in Parliament.

Cost and adequacy of Parliament House security

Ms Burgmann advised that the Legislature employees 12 security staff, and has an additional 3.5 contract staff, at a cost of approximately \$1 million per annum. Ms Burgmann indicated she is involved in ongoing discussions about the adequacy of security with the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

Study assistance for Legislative Council employees

In response to questioning, Ms Burgmann assured the Committee that study assistance continued to be available to employees of the Legislative Council.

Resources for the General Purpose Standing Committees

Ms Burgmann provided information about levels of resources, particularly staff resources, for the Legislative Council's General Purpose Standing Committees.

Public entry to Parliament House

Concerns were raised about the perceived accessibility of Parliament House to the general public and tourists.

Advertisement of Legislative Council sitting times

An explanation was provided as to why the Legislative Council sitting times no longer appear in the *Daily Telegraph*.

Changes to sitting hours

The Legislature's intentions in relation to changes of current sitting patterns were discussed, specifically whether sitting hours might be brought into line with normal business hours, resulting in family-friendly hours and budget savings.

Impact of possible reduction in the number of Members of the Legislative Council

Ms Burgmann expressed concern that a reduction in the number of Members of the Legislative Council would limit the ability of the Upper House to undertake committee work.

Impact of revaluation of Parliament House building on 1998/99 budget result

Ms Burgmann advised that revaluation of the Parliament House building to an amount \$26 million less than the previous valuation was the primary reason why the Legislature's 1998/99 budget was exceeded by \$27.8 million.

Impact of budget cuts on the Parliamentary Library

The Committee was advised that the \$90,000 cut to the Parliamentary Library's budget would be achieved by efficiencies resulting from information technology initiatives and staff salary savings.

Value of Parliamentary Library heritage items

When asked about the value of the Parliamentary Library's heritage items, Ms Burgmann advised that these items had been recently valued at \$11.1 million.

Disposal of publications not required by the Parliamentary Library

The Parliamentary Librarian provided an account of the Library's use of Bibliocity, an Internet network, to advertise and sell surplus publications.

Availability of storage in the Parliamentary Library

The Parliamentary Librarian provided information about a number of measures that were being undertaken to ensure adequate space was provided for required publications.

Access to ethnic newspapers

While the Parliamentary Library was praised for its initiative in recent years to provide parliamentarians access to ethnic newspapers, a concern was raised about the delays associated with flattening of the newspapers prior to their being made available.

ICAC investigation relating to Parliamentarians' travel

Ms Burgmann advised that ICAC had completed certain aspects of its investigation relating to travel of Members of the Legislature but that these investigations were continuing.

Damage to antique chairs located in the President's dining room

A number of questions were asked about damage sustained by antique chairs that are ordinarily located in the President's dining room. Ms Burgmann advised damage was solely due to normal wear and tear and the style of construction of the chairs.

Impact of overdue House Committee Accounts on the Legislature's cash flow

Ms Burgmann advised that there were no concerns about overdue House Committee accounts impacting on the cash flow of the Legislature, and advised that a 24 per cent interest rate was charged on outstanding accounts.

Decrease in costs associated with Members' salaries

Ms Burgmann advised that while provision had been made in the original 1998/99 budget for a salary increase for Members, the salary increase had not occurred.

Legislative Assembly expenditure

Some Members of the Committee expressed concern that, given that the Speaker and Officers of the Legislative Assembly were not in attendance at the hearing, they were unable to ask questions about the operations of the Legislative Assembly.

The Committee notes that Members and Officers of the Legislative Assembly can not be compelled to appear before a Legislative Council Committee.⁷ While the Speaker and Officers of the Legislative Assembly were not specifically invited to attend the hearing, the Committee is aware of the Speaker's past reluctance to allow the Financial Controller to give evidence before an Estimates Committee.⁸ This would suggest it is unlikely that the Speaker would have attended the hearing, or allowed any officer of the Legislative Assembly to attend, if invited.

The Committee highlights this issue to ensure that it is understood that its ability to scrutinise the Legislature's Budget Estimates was constrained by its inability to ask questions about expenditure by the Legislative Assembly. The House as a whole may wish to further consider how the Legislative Assembly's Budget Estimates might be scrutinised in the future.

⁷ See Section 5 of the Parliamentary Evidence Act 1901, and Erskine May's *Parliamentary Practice*, 1997, 22nd Edition, p 263.

⁸ See the Legislative Council's *Sanding Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics Report on Inquiry Arising from Special Report of Estimates Committee No 1, May 1997*.

Education and Training

The Committee heard evidence from the Hon John Aquilina MP, Minister for Education and Training, together with officers of the relevant department at a public hearing held on 15 September 1999.

A brief summary of issues discussed at the hearing is provided below.

Introduction of the new Higher School Certificate

Concerns were raised with Mr Aquilina about the cost to schools of the new Higher School Certificate (HSC).

Disposal of surplus school and TAFE sites

Mr Aquilina was questioned about departmental policy relating to the disposal of surplus school and TAFE sites, with particular reference to the St Ives Chase Public School site at Warrimoo Avenue.

School security

Mr Aquilina was asked a number of questions relating to school security, with a particular emphasis on accountability mechanisms for security firms who are contracted to provide security services to schools. A concern was raised about the possibility that a former government employee involved in the tender process had subsequently taken up employment with a security firm that had secured a tender.

Screening mechanisms for employees at non-government schools

Mr Aquilina advised that the Department of Education and Training would have responsibility for screening employees only at government schools, and the Children's Services Commission would undertake this responsibility for non-government schools.

Operation of TAFE Colleges

The Committee asked a series of questions about the operation of TAFE colleges, including the impact of staff cuts. Mr Aquilina indicated that individual colleges were responsible for determining appropriate class sizes, and for determining what courses are offered, based on local demands.

Decrease in staffing for secondary schools

Mr Aquilina indicated a decrease in staffing by 66 FTEs did not relate specifically to teaching positions, but reflected a combination of teaching, school support and non-teaching administrative staff.

Matters associated with a call for salary increases for teachers

In response to questions about the call by the New South Wales Teachers' Federation for salary increases for teachers, Mr Aquilina stated that negotiations are continuing in relation to mechanisms for the removal of inefficient and incompetent teachers.

Commonwealth Enrolment Benchmark Adjustment (EBA) policy

Concerns were raised with Mr Aquilina about the impact of the Commonwealth Government's Enrolment Benchmark Adjustment (EBA) policy on funding for non-government schools.

Attendance of politicians at school openings

Mr Aquilina acknowledged that while he had been concerned about the appropriateness of State back benchers representing the Commonwealth Minister at school openings, this matter had now been resolved.

Casual teacher shortages

Concerns were raised about the difficulties some schools have in obtaining casual teachers to cover short-term staff absences.

Community language schools

The issue of funding for community language schools in New South Wales was discussed.

Funding for ESL (English as a second language) teachers

Mr Aquilina advised the Committee that funding for non-English speaking background programs will be reduced from \$85.760 million to \$80.860 million, primarily due to Commonwealth funding cuts.

Adult Migrant English Service

Mr Aquilina advised that changes to the composition of the migration humanitarian programs in 1997/98 had reduced the levels of need for adult migrant English service and consequently over 360 redundancies have been offered to staff in this area.

St George campus

Mr Aquilina was asked a number of questions about the use of the St George campus site and the Trinity Grammar School lease.

Special Minister of State

The Committee heard evidence from the Hon John Della Bosca MLC, Special Minister of State, together with officers of relevant departments and agencies at a public hearing held on 16 September 1999.

A brief summary of issues discussed at the hearing is provided below.

Role of the Special Minister of State

Given the unique nature of the position of Special Minister of State, Mr Della Bosca was asked a number of questions about his role.

Review of the Motor Accidents Authority (MAA)

Mr Della Bosca provided information about the cost and outcomes of the review of the MAA.

Green Slips

The Government's initiative to reduce the cost of Green Slips in New South Wales was discussed, with Mr Della Bosca providing information about the measures that have been put in place to achieve savings.

Road safety and the MAA

In response to questioning about the road safety role of the MAA, Mr Della Bosca provided information about the MAA's Road Safety Strategy.

Upper House reform

Mr Della Bosca indicated that the legislation relating to Upper House reform would be introduced in the current session of Parliament, and that he hoped to include a mechanism to improve the transparency of preference allocations for voters.

Drug Summit

Mr Della Bosca advised the Committee that he is Chair of the Cabinet Committee responsible for formulating the Government's response to the recommendations of the Drug Summit, and the Parliament would be advised of that response shortly.

Olympics

The Committee heard evidence from the Hon Michael Knight MP, Minister for the Olympics, together with officers of relevant departments and agencies at a public hearing held on 15 October 1999.

A brief summary of issues discussed at the hearing is provided below.

Olympic-related expenditure by other departments

The Committee questioned the Minister about Olympic-related expenditure by other departments. The Minister indicated the issue was complicated by a number of factors, including historical anomalies and the status of venues after the Olympics.

Premium packaging of Olympic tickets

The Minister was asked a series of questions relating to arrangements for the sale of premium tickets at prices above those paid by participants in the ballot process.

The Minister confirmed that ticket packages had been sold to the Tattersalls Club for prices considerably above face value, and that similar arrangements had been, and continue to be, negotiated with various other organisations and individuals. In response to a request for the names of companies other than Tattersalls who have been offered premium ticket packages, the Minister stated:

... I would be reticent to say that we will publicly name everyone who buys a premium ticket
... because that may have a negative impact on the selling process.

The Chief Executive of the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG), Mr Sandy Hollway, was asked to confirm that approximately 250,000 tickets (or around five per cent of the approximately five million tickets available) had been set aside for premium sales. In response, Mr Hollway stated:

Yes, subject to my checking and correcting if that is wrong ...

The Committee was told that sales of premium tickets were an essential part of the ticketing strategy for the Olympic games, and helped to cross-subsidise initiatives such as the Olympic Opportunity program.

On-selling of Olympics tickets by international organisations

In response to questioning, the Minister confirmed there was an obligation to provide a certain number of Olympic tickets to the various national Olympic Committees throughout the world, and while there were suspicions that some countries on-sold these tickets, it was impossible to stop this from occurring.

Allocation of Olympic tickets through the ballot process, and subsequent allocation rounds

The Committee asked a number of questions about the allocation of Olympic tickets through the first-round ballot process, and proposed mechanisms for further allocation of tickets. The Committee was provided with a considerable amount of information about the mechanisms that were used to allocate tickets during the first round. The Minister indicated that the SOCOG board was likely to make a decision about mechanisms for subsequent rounds of ticket allocations no later than Thursday 21 October 1999.

Olympic Opportunity tickets

In response to questioning about tickets set aside for low-income earners, the Minister advised that 1½ million tickets, priced between \$10 and \$19, had been set aside for the Olympic Opportunity initiative and that these tickets will be distributed through school and community organisations. The Committee was advised that Olympic Opportunity tickets will not be available for the opening and closing ceremonies, and was provided with information about sporting events for which it is proposed that these tickets be available. The Chief Executive of SOCOG confirmed that 30,000 of the tickets set aside for the Olympic Opportunity initiative had been inadvertently allocated through the first-round ballot process.

Contingency arrangements for power-black outs during the Olympics

The Committee was advised that contingency plans have been put in place in case of power black-outs, including the provision of back-up generator facilities at the Olympic Park site. In addition, the power substation, which has been especially built for the Olympics, has been upgraded to provide reserve capacity in case it is required.

Surplus Funds

The Minister was questioned about the level of surplus funds that may be generated by the Sydney Olympics. The Minister provided detail about the contract with the International Olympic Committee and the Australian Olympic Committee for payment of funds to these organisations, and indicated that it was expected that the remaining surplus funds, which are to be paid to the New South Wales Government, would total around \$30 million.

Radio handsets

In response to questioning about the purchase of 10,000 radio handsets for the Olympics, the Minister advised that these handsets will be used after the Olympics in the upgrade of the government radio network.

Ryde pool

The Committee was provided with information about construction progress of the new swimming pool facilities at Ryde, which are to be used during the Olympics. The Minister indicated that the project would be completed by April 2000.

Ceremonial planting of olive trees

The Minister undertook to provide the Committee with information about a recent ceremonial planting of olive trees.

Ministerial travel

The Minister was questioned about overseas travel he undertook in July 1998, with particular reference to a visit to Lake Powell, near Salt Lake City. The Minister advised that the Olympic Coordinating Committee paid for the cost of his accommodation during a weekend visit to Lake Powell, but the cost of this accommodation was less than the cost of accommodation in Salt Lake City.

Olympic construction budget

The Minister provided information about the cost of construction venues in the Olympic Coordination Authority budget.

Environmental aspects of Olympic sites construction

In response to a question about the environmental aspects of the Homebush Bay site, the Minister indicated that considerable work had been undertaken to rehabilitate the site.

Bondi Beach volleyball site

The Committee was advised of changes that have been made to the design of the Olympic beach volleyball stadium, which will be located at Bondi Beach, to accommodate local community concerns.

Impact of sponsorship arrangements on media access to Olympic news

The Minister provided information about the impact of sponsorship arrangements with specific media outlets on the release of Olympic-related news to the general media.

Status of Olympic Coordination Authority after the Olympics

In response to a question about the future of the Olympics Coordination Authority after the Olympic games, the Minister advised that decisions still needed to be taken about the future management of some public venues.

Bus 2000

The Committee was provided with information about the Bus 2000 initiative, which is aimed at coordinating the services of professional bus operators to provide transport during the Olympics.

Accommodation tariffs for visitors during the Olympics

The Minister indicated that while there was an agreement in place with the peak hotel and motel associations to regulated accommodation tariffs during the Olympics period, the government was unable to enforce this agreement.

General issue

A notable change from past Budget Estimates hearings was the decision of Government Members to refrain from asking questions during the Budget Estimates hearings this year. While it is understood this decision was made to expedite the hearings process, it is noted that in the past, even where questions from Government Members were anticipated by the relevant Minister, these questions provided valuable information about the budget. It is hoped that the involvement of Government Members in the questioning process is restored in future Estimate Committee hearings, where possible.

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 Tuesday, 26 October 1999 as the date by which all Ministers, except the Minister for the Olympics, 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. The deadline set for the Minister for the Olympics is 12 noon on Friday, 29 October 1999

Supplementary hearings

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

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE No. 1

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

52nd Parliament

Meeting No. 1

Monday, 7 June 1999

at Parliament House, Sydney at 4.00pm

MEMBERS PRESENT

Revd Nile (In the Chair)

Mrs Forsythe
Mr Kelly
Mr Primrose

Mr Ryan (Moppett)
Mr Tsang
Dr Wong

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 7 June 1999 from the Opposition Whip, the Hon. J Jobling MLC, nominating the Hon. J Ryan to act as a substitute Member of the Committee for this meeting, replacing the Hon. D Moppett MLC.

The Clerk called for nominations for the Chair.

Mr Ryan moved: That Revd Nile be elected Chair of the Committee.

Mr Primrose moved: That Mr Kelly be elected Chair of the Committee.

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

Revd Nile addressed the Committee.

Mr Kelly 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:

Revd Nile—4 votes

Mr Kelly—3 votes

Revd Nile, having a majority of the Members present and voting, was therefore declared elected Chairman of General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1.

Revd Nile took the Chair.

The Chairman called for nominations for Deputy Chair.

Mr Ryan moved: That Mr Kelly be elected Deputy Chair of the Committee.

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

The Chairman made a statement to the Committee concerning the current inquiry and tabled the following reference from the House:

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1

That General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1, inquire into and report on the current provisions for the appropriation of moneys and authorisation of expenditure, and in particular:

- (a) the provisions of the Appropriation (1998-1999 Budget Variations) Bill,
- (b) the continuing practice of government agencies to unlawfully spend moneys from the Consolidated Fund and seek retrospective approval by the Parliament, as referred to by the Auditor-General in his Reports to Parliament (Volume 2, 1998) and (Volume 1, 1999) and subsequent comments on the Appropriation (1998-1999 Budget variations) Bill 1999,
- (c) any proposals for change to financial and annual reporting legislation, and
- (d) the powers of the Parliament to oversight Government expenditure.¹

The Committee deliberated.

¹ *Minutes of the Proceedings, No. 7, 1 June 1999, pp 105-114.*

Resolved, on motion of Mrs Forsythe: That the Clerk confirm the date that the term of office of the Auditor-General expires.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Kelly: That the Clerk prepare and place advertisements calling for submissions in relation to the inquiry in the Sydney Morning Herald, Australian and Financial Review newspapers and selected professional publications.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Ryan: That the date for close of submissions be Friday, 30 July 1999.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Kelly: That the week of Tuesday, 17 August to Thursday, 19 August 1999, be reserved for hearings.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Primrose: That the Chairman write to the Treasurer, Secretary to the Treasury and Auditor-General in each State informing them of the Committee's inquiry and requesting details of the relevant law and procedures in operation in each State and inviting a submissions addressing the Terms of Reference.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Kelly: That the Clerk make inquiries in relation to employing a Specialist Project Officer for recommendation to the Chairman and Deputy Chair.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Ryan: That the Clerk write to the Secretary of the Treasury requesting copies of the Draft Working Paper of Financial and Reporting Legislation.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Primrose: That the Committee Members prepare a list of witnesses for submission to the Clerk by Wednesday, 30 June 1999.

Resolved in globo, on motion of Mr Ryan:

That arrangements for the calling witnesses be left in the hands of the Chairman and the Clerk.

That media statements concerning the deliberations of the Committee be made only by the Chairman on behalf of the Committee.

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

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

That the Chairman and Clerk be empowered to request that funds be provided to meet expenses in connection with travel, accommodation, advertising and approved incidental expenses of the Committee, including additional staff.

The Committee adjourned at 4.45pm to a date to be finalised by the Chairman and Deputy Chair, or to a date to be decided by a majority of Members in writing to the Chairman.

Warren Cahill
Clerk to the Committee

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE No. 1

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

52nd Parliament

Meeting No. 2

Thursday 1 July 1999

at Parliament House, Sydney at 8.15pm

MEMBERS PRESENT

Revd Nile (In the Chair)

Mrs Forsythe

Mr Primrose

Mr Kelly

Mr Tsang

Mr Moppett

Dr Wong

Apologies

Nil.

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 1999.¹

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Kelly, that the Clerk schedule budget estimate hearings, relating to all portfolios under the purview of the committee, on the evenings of 7, 8, 9, 14, 15 and 16 September 1999.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Kelly, 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 on the hearing days 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.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8.25pm *sine die*.

Anna McNicol
Director

¹ *Minutes of the Proceedings, No 14, 29 June 1999, pp. 163-164.*

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE No. 1

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

52nd Parliament

Meeting No. 3

Tuesday 7 September 1999

at Parliament House, Sydney at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT

Revd Nile (In the Chair)

Ms Burnswood (Tsang)	Mr Primrose
Mrs Forsythe	Mr Samios (Moppett)
Mr Kelly	Dr Wong

Apologies

Nil.

Budget Estimates reference

The Chair advised that Ms Burnswoods would be representing Mr Tsang, and Mr Samios would be representing Mr Moppett.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Kelly, 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.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on motion of Mrs Forsythe, that the Premier be asked to respond to questions placed on notice by Dr Wong prior to the hearing, by 14 September 1999.

The Hon R J Carr MP, Premier, Minister for the Arts and Minister for Citizenship, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisors:

Premier's Department

Dr Colin Gellatly, Director General

The Cabinet Office

Mr Roger Wilkins

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 Premier, the Arts and Citizenship open for examination.

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

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

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

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

The public and media withdrew.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on motion of Mrs Forsythe, that a summons be issued to Mr Greg McGill, Financial Controller, New South Wales Parliament, requiring his attendance before the Committee at its hearing on Tuesday, 14 September 1999.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on motion of Mrs Forsythe, that any additional questions relating to the portfolio areas of Premier, the Arts and Citizenship, be lodged with the Director of the General Purpose Standing Committees by 14 September 1999.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9.42pm until 7.30pm on Wednesday, 8 September 1999.

Anna McNicol
Director

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE No. 1

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

52nd Parliament

Meeting No. 4

Wednesday 8 September 1999

at Parliament House, Sydney at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT

Revd Nile (In the Chair)

Mrs Forsythe

Mr Primrose

Mr Kelly

Mr Tsang

Mr Moppett

Apologies

Dr Wong

Budget Estimates Reference

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

The Committee deliberated.

The Hon M R Egan MLC, Treasurer and Minister for State Development, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisors:

Treasury

John Pierce, Secretary of Treasury

Peter Ashterstratt, Executive Director, Office of State Revenue

Department of State and Regional Development

Loftus Harris, Director General, Department of State and Regional Development

Warwick Glenn, Executive Director, Investment Division, Department of State and Regional Development

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 Treasury and State Development open for examination.

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

The Treasurer tendered three documents to support his evidence.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Kelly, that the Committee accept the documents.

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

The public and media withdrew.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Kelly, 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 Kelly, 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 the hearing of 7 September 1999.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Kelly, that the Minister for Education and Training be asked to respond to questions placed on notice by Dr Wong prior to the hearing, by 15 September 1999.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Moppett, that any additional questions relating to the portfolio areas of Treasury and State Development be lodged with the Director of the General Purpose Standing Committees by 15 September 1999.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9.38pm until 7.30pm on Tuesday, 14 September 1999.

Anna McNicol
Director

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE No. 1

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

52nd Parliament

Meeting No. 5

Tuesday 14 September 1999

at Parliament House, Sydney at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT

Revd Nile (In the Chair)

Mrs Forsythe	Mr Primrose
Mr Kelly	Mr Samios (Moppett)
Mr Macdonald (Tsang)	Dr Wong

Apologies

Nil

Budget Estimates Reference

The Chair advised that Mr Macdonald would be representing Mr Tsang, and Mr Samios would be representing Mr Moppett.

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

The Committee deliberated.

The Hon Dr M A Burgmann MLC, President of the Legislative Council, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisors:

Lynn Lovelock, Deputy Clerk of the Legislative Council and Acting Clerk of the Parliaments
Mark Faulkner, Acting Editor of Debates
Rob Brian, Parliamentary Librarian
Stafford Bennett, Manager, Parliamentary Building Services
David Draper, Manager, Food and Beverage Services
Mallika Ganesan, Acting Manager, Parliamentary Information Technology Services
Greg McGill, Financial Controller

Graham Spindler, Acting Manager, Education and Community Relations

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 area of The Legislature open for examination.

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

The President tendered a document to support her evidence.

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

The examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of The Legislature concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public and media withdrew.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Kelly, 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 document accepted by the Committee during today's hearing.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on motion of Mrs Forsythe, that any additional questions relating to the portfolio area of The Legislature be lodged with the Director of the General Purpose Standing Committees by 21 September 1999.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Kelly, that the Committee hold a Budget Estimates hearing for the portfolio area of Special Minister of State on Thursday, 16 September 1999 from 5.00pm to 7.00pm.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9.25pm until 7.30pm on Wednesday, 15 September 1999.

Anna McNicol
Director

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE No. 1

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

52nd Parliament

Meeting No. 6

Wednesday 15 September 1999

at Parliament House, Sydney at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT

Revd Nile (In the Chair)

Mrs Forsythe

Mr Kelly

Mr Moppett

Mr Primrose

Mr Tsang

Dr Wong

Apologies

Nil

Budget Estimates reference

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

The Committee deliberated.

The Hon J J Aquilina MP, Minister for Education and Training, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisors:

Department of Education and Training

Mr K Boston, Director General, Education and Training, and Managing Director, TAFE New South Wales

Mr K Dixon, General Manager, Finance

Ms J McClelland, Deputy Director General, Corporate Services

Mr T Burke, Deputy Director General, Operations

Board of Studies

Mr J Ward, General Manager

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 area of Education and Training open for examination.

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

The Minister tendered written answers to questions placed on notice prior to the hearing, and a document to support his evidence.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Kelly, that the Committee accept the documents.

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

The public and media withdrew.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Kelly, 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 Chair tabled written answers provided by the Minister for Citizenship in relation to questions placed on noticed by Dr Wong.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Kelly, 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 answers provided by the Minister for Citizenship.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on motion of Mrs Forsythe, that any additional questions relating to the portfolio area of The Legislature be lodged with the Director of the General Purpose Standing Committees by 22 September 1999.

The Committee deliberated.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9.40pm until 5.00pm on Thursday, 16 September 1999.

Anna McNicol
Director

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE No. 1

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

52nd Parliament

Meeting No. 7

Thursday 16 September 1999

at Parliament House, Sydney at 5.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT

Revd Nile (In the Chair)

Mrs Forsythe	Mr Moppett
Mr Kelly	Mr Primrose
Mr Macdonald (Tsang)	Dr Wong

Apologies

Nil

Budget Estimates Reference

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

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

The Committee deliberated.

The Hon J Della Bosca MP, Special Minister of State, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisors:

Premier's Department

Dr Colin Gellatly, Director General

Motor Accident's Authority

Mr David Bowen, General Manager

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 area of Special Minister of State open for examination.

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

The Minister tendered a document to support his evidence.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Kelly, that the document be incorporated into the transcript of proceedings.

The examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio area of Special Minister of State concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public and media withdrew.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on motion of Mrs Forsythe, that any additional questions relating to the portfolio area of Special Minister of State be lodged with the Director of the General Purpose Standing Committees by 23 September 1999.

The Committee deliberated.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6.50pm *sine die*.

David Blunt
Clerk to the Committee

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE No. 1

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

52nd Parliament

Meeting No. 8

Friday 15 October 1999

at Parliament House, Sydney at 9.30am

MEMBERS PRESENT

Revd Nile (In the Chair)

Mr Breen (Wong)	Mr Johnson (Tsang)
Mr Bull (Forsythe)	Mr Mr Kelly
Ms Burnswood (Tsang)	Mr Primrose
Mr Harwin (Moppett)	

Apologies

Nil

Budget Estimates reference

The Chair advised that Mr Breen would be representing Dr Wong, Mr Bull would be representing Mrs Forsythe, Mr Harwin would be representing Mr Moppett, and Mr Johnson would be representing Mr Tsang for the first part of the meeting, with Ms Burnswoods representing Mr Tsang for the remainder of the meeting.

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

The Committee deliberated.

The Chair advised that he had received notification that the Minister had been unavoidably detained.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Bull, that this meeting be adjourned until 10.15am.

Meeting resumed at 10.15am.

The Hon M S Knight MP, Minister for the Olympics, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisors:

Olympic Coordination Authority

Mr D Richmond, Director-General

Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games

Mr S Hollway, Chief Executive

Olympic Roads and Transport Authority

Mr R Christie, Chief Executive Officer

Darling Harbour Authority

Mr A Marsh, Chief Executive

Minister's Staff

Ms A Milne, Policy Advisor

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 area of the Olympics open for examination.

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

The examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio area of the Olympics concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public and media withdrew.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Kelly, that any additional questions relating to the portfolio area of the Olympics be lodged with the Director of the General Purpose Standing Committees by 5pm on 18 October 1999.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12.05pm until a time and date later in the week for the Committee to deliberate on its draft report, to be determined by the Chair in consultation with Committee Members.

Anna McNicol
Director

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE No. 1

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

52nd Parliament

Meeting No. 9

Thursday 21 October 1999

at Parliament House, Sydney at 6.40pm

MEMBERS PRESENT

Revd Nile (In the Chair)

Mrs Forsythe
Mr Johnson (Tsang)
Mr Kelly

Mr Moppett
Mr Primrose
Mr Samios (participating)

Apologies

Dr Wong

Confirmation of minutes

Resolved, on motion of Ms Forsythe, that the minutes of meetings number 1 to 8 be confirmed.

Correspondence

The Chair tabled four items of correspondence received:

Letter from David Barr MP, Member for Manly, dated 1 October 1999, relating to the closure of Seaforth TAFE.

Letter from David Barr MP, Member for Manly, dated 21 October 1999, relating to the closure of Seaforth TAFE.

Letter from the Hon Michael Knight MP, Minister for the Olympics, dated 21 October 1999, relating to the Budget Estimates reference.

Letter from Mr Sandy Hollway, Chief Executive Officer, Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games, dated 21 October 1999, clarifying answers given to the Committee at its Olympics Budget Estimates hearing on 15 October 1999.

Budget Estimates reference

The Chair submitted his 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 the motion of Mr Primrose, to delete the words “claims of” from the sentence “Mr Egan stated despite claims of decreasing taxes ...”, under the heading “Increasing State Government revenue” (page 5 Chair’s draft report).

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Primrose, to insert the word “greatly” between the words “not be expected to change” and “the amount of gambling revenue”, under the heading “Impact of a cap on the number of poker machines on gambling taxes” (page 7 of Chair’s draft report).

Resolved, on motion of Mr Primrose, to insert the words “to the best of his knowledge” between the words “Mr Egan advised that” and “the Government had not provided financial assistance”, under the heading “Funding for the Federation of Gay Games” (page 7 of Chair’s draft report).

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Forsythe, to replace the word “function” with the word “responsibility” in the last line of the text under the heading “Screening mechanisms for employees at non-government schools” (page 12 of Chair’s draft report).

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

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Moppett, 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, other than the Olympics, 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.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Forsythe, that 12 noon on Friday 29 October 1999 be fixed as the deadline for the return of answers to questions placed on notice in relation to the Olympics portfolio, and that this return date be conveyed to the relevant Minister and the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, by the Director of the General Purpose Standing Committees.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Moppett, 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.

Ms Forsythe moved that: General Purpose Standing Committee No 1 hold an additional Budget Estimates hearing in relation to the Olympics portfolio on 8 November 1999, and that the Minister for the Olympics, the Hon Michael Knight MP, the Chief Executive of the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG), Mr Sandy Hollway, and the Chair of SOCOG's Ticketing Committee, Mr Graham Richardson, be requested to attend.

Debate ensued.

Mr Kelly moved that: the question be amended by adding the word "and" between "the Hon Michael Knight MP" and "the Chief Executive"; omitting the words "and the Chair of SOCOG's Ticketing Committee, Mr Graham Richardson"; and adding to the end of the resolution the words "and the Committee consider the matter of the attendance of the Chair of SOCOG's Ticketing Committee, Mr Graham Richardson, at its next meeting".

Question: that the amendment of Mr Kelly be agreed to – put and passed.

Original question, as amended, that: General Purpose Standing Committee No 1 hold an additional Budget Estimates hearing in relation to the Olympics portfolio on 8 November 1999, and that the Minister for the Olympics, the Hon Michael Knight MP, and the Chief Executive of the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG), Mr Sandy Hollway, be requested to attend, and the Committee consider the matter of the attendance of the Chair of SOCOG's Ticketing Committee, Mr Graham Richardson at its next meeting – put and passed.

Seaforth TAFE inquiry

The Chairman tabled the following reference from the House:

1. That General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1 inquire into and report on the proposed closure of Seaforth TAFE, and in particular:
 - (a) the process by which the Department of Education and Training resolved to close the TAFE,
 - (b) the social, financial and community impact on the Manly Warringah region, and
 - (c) any other relevant issues with regard to the closure of Seaforth TAFE raised in submissions received by the Committee.
2. That the Committee report by Thursday, 25 November 1999.
3. That there be a moratorium on any moves to demolish the Seaforth TAFE buildings or tenders for its sale until after the Committee has reported.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Forsythe, that the Committee Director prepare and place advertisements calling for submissions in relation to the inquiry in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Manly Daily* and *Mosman Daily*, and that the advertised closing date for submissions be 10 November 1999.

Resolved, on motion of Ms Forsythe, that 12 November 1999 and 15 November 1999 be reserved for hearings and site visits.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Primrose, that the Chair write to the Minister and relevant organisations informing them of the inquiry and inviting submissions.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7.35pm until 9.30am on 29 October 1999.

Anna McNicol
Director