

General Purpose Standing Committee No 1

Budget Estimates 2000-2001

Volume 1

Ordered to be printed 23 June 2000

How to contact the Committee

Members of General Purpose Standing Committee No 1 can be contacted through the committee secretariat. Written correspondence and inquiries should be directed to:

The Director

General Purpose Standing Committees

Legislative Council

Parliament House, Macquarie Street

Sydney NSW 2000

Email gpscno1@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Telephone 61-2-9230 3544

Facsimile 61-2-9230 3416

Website www.parliament.nsw.gov.au

ISBN 0-7347-6437-5

Terms of Reference¹

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. 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).

¹ Legislative Council Minutes of the Proceedings, No.41, 23 May 2000, items 16, 19 and 20.

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 to Members of the Committee. Answers must be supplied to, and circulated by, the Clerk.
17. The Committees must:
 - (a) present a first report to the House before the House adjourns for the winter recess, and
 - (b) present a final report to the House by the first sitting day in August 2000.

Committee Membership

The Rev Hon Fred Nile MLC, *Chairman*

Christian Democratic Party

The Hon Tony Kelly MLC, Deputy Chairman

Australian Labor Party

The Hon Doug Moppett MLC

National Party

The Hon Peter Primrose MLC

Australian Labor Party

The Hon Patricia Forsythe MLC

Liberal Party

The Hon Henry Tsang MLC

Australian Labor Party

The Hon Dr Peter Wong MLC

Unity Party

Other Members who attended the hearings

The Hon Richard Bull MLC

National Party

The Hon Jan Burnswoods MLC

Australian Labor Party

The Hon Ron Dyer MLC

Australian Labor Party

The Hon Michael Gallacher MLC

Liberal Party

The Hon Don Harwin MLC

Liberal Party

The Hon John Jobling MLC

Liberal Party

The Hon John Johnson MLC

Australian Labor Party

The Hon Charles Lynn MLC

Liberal Party

The Hon Andrew Manson MLC

Australian Labor Party

Ms Lee Rhiannon MLC

The Greens

The Hon John Ryan MLC

Liberal Party

The Hon James Samios MLC

Liberal Party

Table of Contents

	Chairman's Foreword	ix
	Introduction	1
	Establishment of the General Purpose Standing Committees	1
	Portfolios	1
	Powers of the General Purpose Standing Committees	2
	Referral of the Budget Estimates	3
Chapter 1	Premier, the Arts, Citizenship	4
	Premier	4
	The Arts	5
	Citizenship	7
Chapter 2	Olympics	9
Chapter 3	Treasury, State Development	13
	Treasury	13
	State Development	15
Chapter 4	Special Minister of State	16
	WorkCover Authority	16
	Motor Accidents Authority	17
	Shareholdings	18
	Drug Summit Implementation	18
	Regional Services Delivery Plan	18
Chapter 5	Education and Training	19

Chapter 6	The Legislature	23
Chapter 7	Administrative matters	27
Appendix 1	Documents tabled at the hearings	29
	Proceedings of the Committee	31

Chairman's Foreword

General Purpose Standing Committee No 1 has examined the Budget Estimates for 2000-2001 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 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

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.² On 13 May 1999, shortly after the commencement of the 52nd Parliament, the five committees were reconstituted.³

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.⁴

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

² Minutes of Proceedings, No 65, 7 May 1997, p677. Also see Minutes of Proceedings, No 4, 14 September 1999, p48, for amendment to the resolution (the addition of Special Minister of State to the portfolio areas).

³ Minutes of Proceedings, No 3, 13 May 1999, p62 (hereafter referred to as Resolution of 13 May 1999).

⁴ Resolution of 13 May 1999, para 3.

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

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.⁵

⁵ Resolution of 13 May 1999, para 8.

Referral of the 2000-2001 Budget Estimates

On 23 May 2000, 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.⁶ Each Committee is to examine the Budget Estimates for their relevant portfolios and present a first report to the House before the House adjourns for the winter recess, and present a final report to the House by the first sitting day in August 2000.⁷

Under the resolution there is no requirement for the Committees' consideration of the Budget Estimates to be completed prior to the passage of the 2000-2001 Appropriation Bills. Separation of consideration of the Budget Estimates from the passage of the Appropriation Bills provides greater flexibility for the Committees to scrutinise government expenditure. Under section 5A of the Constitution Act 1902 the Legislative Council is not able to prevent the passage of Bills appropriating money for the ordinary annual services of the Government.

6 Minutes of Proceedings, No 41, 23 May 2000, items 16, 19 and 20 (hereafter referred to as Resolution of 23 May 2000).

7 Resolution of 23 May 2000, para 17.

Chapter 1 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 Dr Col Gellatly, Director General of the Premier's Department and Mr Roger Wilkins, Director General of the Cabinet Office, at a public hearing held on 6 June 2000. A brief summary of issues discussed at the hearing is provided below.

Premier

Ministerial and Parliamentary Services program

- 1.1** The Premier was asked why the budgeted amount for operating services for the Ministerial and Parliamentary Services program (in the Premier's Department) in 1999-2000 was exceeded. The Premier advised the Committee of a number of contributing factors, including a re-allocation of funds from the State Administration Services program.
- 1.2** With respect to 'other expenses' for the Ministerial and Parliamentary Services program, the Premier was asked for details of unforeseen expenses he had approved under the item 'Ministerial travel, special reports for the Premier, and unforeseen expenses approved by the Premier'. The Premier undertook to provide this information to the Committee.

Strategic Projects Division and the Infrastructure Coordination Unit

- 1.3** In response to questioning, the Premier explained that staff increases in the Strategic Projects Division and the Infrastructure Coordination Unit of the Premier's Department were associated with an expansion of the regional coordination program, the establishment of community drug action teams, the establishment of a strengthening communities unit incorporating place management and the establishment of the Migration Heritage Centre.

Families First

- 1.4** The Premier advised that provision within the Premier's Department budget for funding and resources associated with the Families First program related to coordinators of that program.

Capitalisation in investment and trade opportunities arising from the Olympic Games

- 1.5** With respect to the 2000 Olympic Games, the Premier provided information about plans to capitalise on investment and trade opportunities for businesses in New South Wales, and benefits to rural and regional New South Wales arising out of Sydney's hosting of the Games.

Regional Integrated Service Delivery

- 1.6** In response to questioning, the Premier outlined initiatives canvassed in the strategy for Regional Integrated Service Delivery.

Centenary of Federation

- 1.7** The Premier provided details of celebrations that will be conducted in New South Wales associated with the Centenary of Federation in 2001.

Services for the Premier and Cabinet program

- 1.8** The Premier was asked why no funds were included in the revised estimate of expenditure for 1999-2000 for 'special projects' in the Cabinet Office's Services for the Premier and Cabinet program. In response, the Premier provided information about expenditure in the 'Drug policy', 'Families First' and 'Children's and youth initiatives' line items.

Overseas Travel

- 1.9** In response to questions about overseas travel undertaken in the 1999-2000 financial year, the Premier referred the Committee to documents released in March 2000 in response to a Freedom of Information request, and stated that he had not undertaken any additional overseas travel since March.

Office for Children and Young People / Commission for Children and Young People

- 1.10** The Premier provided the Committee with information about funding and program initiatives of the Office of Children and Young People.
- 1.11** The Premier undertook to provide the Committee with information about programs to be conducted by the Commission for Children and Young People specifically targeted at persons from non-English speaking backgrounds.

The Arts**Museum of Contemporary Art**

- 1.12** In response to questioning about funding for and the future of the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Premier provided information to the Committee about possible administrative and funding options.

Art Gallery of New South Wales

- 1.13** The Premier advised an award increase of 3 percent was likely to be the explanation for an increase in funds in 2000-2001 for employee-related payments.

- 1.14** In response to questioning about reasons for a capital appropriation increase from 1999-2000 to 2000-2001, the Premier advised that the major feature of the capital program is support for building extensions, including the development of the Asian gallery, and the collection digitisation program.

Arts Advisory Council

- 1.15** In response to questioning, the Premier provided an explanation of the role of the Arts Advisory Council in making recommendations about funding grants. The Premier stated that certain disciplines have more than one funding round each year, and as the Arts Advisory Council only meets once a year it is not possible for all grants to be approved by the Council. The Premier undertook to advise the Committee whether those grants approved without reference to the Council in the 1998-99 financial year were not referred to the Council because of issues associated with multiple funding rounds.

Migrant Heritage Centre

- 1.16** The Premier indicated that rather than providing financial support for museums and cultural institutions that represent particular ethnic, cultural or religious heritage, the government is instead providing support for work on migrant heritage (see paragraph 1.3, above).

State Library of New South Wales

- 1.17** The Premier undertook to provide an explanation to the Committee about the forecast decrease in sales of goods and services by the State Library in 2000-20001.
- 1.18** The Premier advised that the decrease in employee related expenses for the State Library related to voluntary redundancies of library staff.
- 1.19** The Premier undertook to provide the Committee with an explanation as to how the State Library's acquisition policy will be accommodated within its reduced acquisition budget.
- 1.20** The Premier undertook to provide the Committee with an explanation as to why fewer local councils were connected to NSW.net in 1999-2000 than forecast in last year's budget papers.

Djumu Gallery

- 1.21** In response to questioning, the Premier confirmed that the Djumu Gallery, a public gallery solely devoted indigenous art and funded by the Australian Museum, would be closing. The Premier indicated that low attendance levels had resulted in the decision to close the gallery. The Premier undertook to advise the Committee whether there would be an ongoing liability to the State with respect to lease payments for the current location of the gallery at Customs House.

Advocacy of wildlife as pets by Director of the Australian Museum

- 1.22** The Premier advised the Committee that no funding had been provided for activities associated with the advocacy of wildlife as pets, as championed by the Director of the Australian Museum.

Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences

- 1.23** The Premier undertook to provide an explanation to the Committee as to why the 1999-2000 Budget Papers showed a higher figure for the number of exhibitions and public programs held in regional New South Wales in 1998-99 than the 2000-2001 Budget Papers.

Citizenship**Ethnic Affairs Commission grants and subsidies**

- 1.24** The Premier was asked about a slight decrease in funds available for the Ethnic Affairs Commission to provide of grants and subsidies. The Premier stated he believed the programs are adequate. In response to a number of questions about grants and subsidies, the Premier provided information about priority areas for grants and subsidies and the 2001 Community Development Grants program.

Change of name of the Ethnic Affairs Commission to the Community Relations Commission

- 1.25** The Premier advised the Committee that costs associated with the change of name of the Ethnic Affairs Commission to the Community Relations Commission and the expanded role of the new Commission would be met within the existing budget of the Ethnic Affairs Commission.

Ethnic Communities Council

- 1.26** The Premier assured the Committee that the Ethnic Communities Council of New South Wales would continue to receive funding from the government.

Interpreting and translating services in rural and regional New South Wales

- 1.27** The Premier undertook to provide information to the Committee about how the government would be extending interpreting and translating services into rural and regional New South Wales.

Ethnic Affairs Commission regional advisory committees

- 1.28** In response to questioning about regional advisory committees, the Premier provided information about the committees currently in existence, their role and their membership.

The Premier undertook to provide the Committee with information about spending associated with various activities of the regional advisory committees.

Additional funding for Community Support Services program

- 1.29** The Premier explained that additional funds provided for 'other operating expenses' in the Ethnic Affairs Commission's Community Support Services program in 1999-2000 were associated with implementation of the GST and the EAC Online Services project.

Funding for artists from culturally diverse backgrounds

- 1.30** The Premier undertook to provide the Committee with information about funding to assist artists from culturally diverse backgrounds who have specific cultural, linguistic or religious needs.

Equal Space

- 1.31** In response to questioning, the Premier provided the Committee with details of the Equal Space Project, a pilot project looking at best practice in commercially owned public spaces to meet the mutual interests of young people, retailers, shoppers, shopping centre management and security staff. The Premier advised that the Ethnic Affairs Commission, under its Community Partnership scheme, has provided \$80,000 to fund the project with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, a Commonwealth authority contributing \$20,000.

State Electoral Commission

- 1.32** The Premier responded to questions about the repayment of monies paid to candidates, groups and parties, under the Funding of Parliamentary Election Campaigns program.
- 1.33** In response to questioning about 'Payments to Commonwealth' under the Management and Administration of Parliamentary Elections program, the Premier provided information about use of the electoral role by the government of New South Wales.

Chapter 2 Olympics

The Committee heard evidence from the Hon Michael Knight MP, Minister for the Olympics, together with Mr David Richmond, Director General, Olympic Coordination Authority, Mr Michael Eyres, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and Mr Ron Christie, Chief Executive Officer, Olympic Roads and Transport Authority, at a public hearing held on 6 June 2000. A brief summary of issues discussed at the hearing is provided below.

Impact of Superdome on operations of the Sydney Entertainment Centre

- 2.1** Mr Richmond was questioned about the future role of the Superdome and whether this would have an impact on operations of the Sydney Entertainment Centre. In response, Mr Richmond advised the Committee that he had instituted a review of the respective roles of the two venues.

The government's ownership and management responsibilities of public domain areas at the Homebush Bay precinct

- 2.2** Mr Richmond provided information about the government's financial obligations associated with its ownership and management responsibilities of public domain areas at the Homebush Bay precinct. Mr Richmond indicated that contractual arrangements for the management of specific venues at Homebush Bay, such as the Superdome, the Olympic stadium and the tennis centre, meant operators had obligations to accept associated commercial risks.
- 2.3** The Minister advised the Committee that the government is in the process of making arrangements for the long-term management of all aspects of the Homebush Bay precinct, including venues, parklands and infrastructure.

Costs associated with reconfiguration of the Olympic stadium

- 2.4** Mr Richmond undertook to provide information to the Committee about the cost to the government of the reconfiguration of the Olympic stadium after the Olympic Games.

Distribution of religious literature at Homebush Bay during the Olympics

- 2.5** In response to questioning, Mr Richmond advised the Committee that a religious organisation, Quest, would be allowed to distribute religious literature at Homebush Bay during the Olympics. Mr Richmond further advised that he expected there would be no barrier to the distribution of such material at other sites throughout Sydney, so long as this did not impact on public safety and people movement.

Entertainment at Olympic Live sites during the Olympics

- 2.6** The Minister and Mr Richmond answered questions about entertainment at Olympic Live sites during the Olympics. An undertaking was given to provide the Committee with specific information about the involvement of religious and indigenous groups in the provision of entertainment at these venues.

Management of the Showground site

- 2.7** Mr Richmond provided details about arrangements between the government and the Royal Agricultural Society to manage the Showground site at Homebush Bay after the Olympics.

Management of the Olympic velodrome

- 2.8** The Minister and Mr Richmond explained what arrangements existed with Bankstown Council for the management of the Olympic velodrome after the Olympics.

Overall cost of staging the Olympic Games to the government

- 2.9** The Minister and Mr Richmond answered questions relating to the overall cost of staging the Olympic Games to the government. Mr Richmond undertook to provide the Committee with detailed information about these costs.

Anti-terrorism exercise at the Olympic softball stadium

- 2.10** In response to questioning, Mr Richmond provided details about an anti-terrorism exercise conducted at the Olympic softball stadium. Mr Richmond undertook to provide the Committee with information about the cost of damages to the venue sustained during the course of the exercise.

Security arrangements for the Olympic Games

- 2.11** Mr Richmond explained that the Commissioner of Police has responsibility for ensuring there are adequate security arrangements for the Olympic Games. These arrangements extend to the protection of both people and assets. Mr Richmond indicated that the government had an obligation to ensure the security of its guests.

Cost of hospitality for guests of the government during the Olympic Games

- 2.12** Mr Richmond indicated that the complexity of determining all cost components associated with hospitality for guests of the government during the Olympic Games meant he was unable to provide this information to the Committee.

Crowd movement throughout the Homebush Bay precinct

- 2.13** The Minister indicated that plans were being developed to facilitate crowd movement throughout the Homebush Bay precinct during the Olympic Games.

Ticketing

- 2.14** The Minister explained why additional tickets were available to events that had previously been advertised as 'sold out'.
- 2.15** The Minister and Mr Eyres provided information about the level of ticket sales in recent months.
- 2.16** The Minister provided the Committee with information about ticket sales to school children under the Olympic Opportunity program.
- 2.17** Mr Eyres undertook to provide the Committee with information about the number of unsold tickets returned to SOCOG by National Olympic Committees.
- 2.18** Mr Eyres advised the Committee that SOCOG is exploring ways of making tickets returned to SOCOG available for public purchase.
- 2.19** The Minister and Mr Eyres provided an overview of the processes associated with the printing and delivery of tickets for the Olympic Games. Mr Eyres explained that there has never been an intention for tickets to be used in turnstiles as this would slow down the movement of spectators into venues. Mr Eyres advised that commemorative tickets are due to be delivered on the four Sundays in August and the first Sunday in September.

The Olympic Club

- 2.20** Mr Eyres answered questions about the operation of the Olympic Club.

State government authorities that are official Olympic sponsors

- 2.21** The Minister answered questions about state government authorities that are official Olympic sponsors.

Torch Relay

- 2.22** The Minister told the Committee about plans for the Olympic Torch Relay.

Media access to the Homebush Bay precinct

- 2.23** With respect to media access to the Homebush Bay precinct during the Olympic Games, the Minister indicated efforts were being made to balance sponsors rights with access for non-rights holders.

Cost of transport support for Olympic test events

- 2.24** Mr Christie provided information about financial costs associated with transport support for Olympic test events.

Responsibility for transport to major events at Olympic Park after the Olympics

- 2.25** The Minister explained that transport to major events at Olympic Park after the Olympics will not be the responsibility of the Olympic Roads and Transport Authority as it will no longer exist.

Contingency plans for rail and general transport operations during the Olympics

- 2.26** The Minister advised the Committee that contingency plans for rail and general transport operations during the Olympics had been developed.

Use of Rivercats during the Olympic Games

- 2.27** Mr Christie provided information about the use of Rivercats for the transport of athletes and officials.

Use of helicopters during the Olympic Games

- 2.28** Mr Christie advised that helicopters will only be allowed to land at Homebush Bay for emergency purposes, and one or two operational purposes such as police use and traffic surveillance.

Transport for guests of the government and sponsors during the Olympic Games

- 2.29** The Minister and Mr Christie answered questions about transport for guests of the government and sponsors, and advised that access to the Homebush Bay site will be restricted to accredited vehicles only.

Chapter 3 Treasury, State Development

The Committee heard evidence from the Hon Michael Egan MLC, Treasurer and Minister for State Development, together with Mr John Pierce, Secretary of NSW Treasury, Mr Loftus Harris, Director General of the Department of State and Regional Development and Mr Peter Achterstraat, Executive Director of the Office of State Revenue, at a public hearing held on 7 June 2000. A brief summary of issues discussed at the hearing is provided below. During the course of the hearing a document was tabled in relation to the portfolio area of State Development. A list of tabled documents is provided at Appendix 1.

Treasury

Access to inappropriate internet sites

- 3.1** The Treasurer, Mr Pierce and Mr Achterstraat answered questions about access of inappropriate internet sites by employees of the Office of State Revenue.

Revenue and Compliance Processes and Systems project (RECOUPS)

- 3.2** The Treasurer, Mr Pierce and Mr Achterstraat explained that increased costs for the Revenue and Compliance Processes and Systems project, known as RECOUPS, have resulted from changes to the scope of the program. Mr Achterstraat outlined the timeframe for full implementation of the project.

Payroll tax

- 3.3** In response to questioning, the Treasurer provided the Committee with information about the reduction of the rate of payroll tax in New South Wales. The Treasurer also explained why this rate is higher than the rates in some other states.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

- 3.4** The Treasurer provided information about the expected GST receipts in NSW, as a proportion of all receipts received by the Commonwealth, and the expected proportion of the overall receipts that will be directed to NSW from the Commonwealth.
- 3.5** The Treasurer indicated that the New South Wales government would be required to pay a contribution to the Australian Taxation Office for that office to administer the GST.
- 3.6** Mr Pierce advised the Committee that it will cost a total of \$63 million for government agencies in New South Wales to implement the GST; \$36 million for agencies covered by the budget and \$27 million for the non-budget agencies.

- 3.7** The Treasurer provided information about steps the government is taking to ensure that grants to non-government organisations would not be eroded by the introduction of the GST.
- 3.8** Mr Pierce responded to questions about whether government trading enterprises would be passing on savings associated with cash flow benefits arising out of the introduction of the GST to consumers.
- 3.9** Mr Aichtersraat undertook to advise the Committee whether, in light of the introduction of the GST, motel patrons making payments prior to 30 June 2000, for accommodation after that date, would be required to pay bed tax.

Stamp duty exemption for first home purchasers

- 3.10** The Treasurer and Mr Pierce provided information about the government's stamp duty exemption for first home purchasers.

Taxes on beer

- 3.11** The Treasurer responded to questions about taxes levied on full-strength and low-alcohol beer, and incentives to encourage the consumption of low-alcohol beer.

Treasurer's Advance

- 3.12** The Treasurer undertook to provide the Committee with details of how the Treasurer's Advance was used in 1999-2000.

Assistance with the Olympics Games by public servants

- 3.13** Mr Pierce advised the Committee that NSW Treasury was asking government departments to record the number of days that public servants will spend assisting in the Olympics.

Financial institutions duty

- 3.14** The Treasurer explained that the forecast collection of financial institutions duty receipts after 30 June 2001 related to duty that arose during the 2000-2001 financial year.

Prediction of forward estimates

- 3.15** The Treasurer and Mr Pierce answered questions about the accuracy of forward estimates.

State Development

Lithgow aluminium smelter

- 3.16** The Treasurer indicated that the proponents of the proposed Lithgow aluminium smelter had indicated they were not interested in subsidisation of electricity costs for the operation of the smelter, and tabled a letter from Mr Phil Green, Managing Director, Lithgow Aluminium Smelters to substantiate this claim.

Construction activity in New South Wales

- 3.17** The Treasurer and Mr Harris answered questions about forecasts of construction activity in New South Wales.

Investment committed to regional projects and associated jobs attracted

- 3.18** Mr Harris explained that the decrease in investment committed to regional projects in New South Wales was a consequence of the “lumpy” nature of these projects. The Treasurer acknowledged that jobs attracted as a result of these projects had decreased correspondingly.

Marketing initiative to maximise the economic impact of the Olympic Games

- 3.19** The Treasurer and Mr Harris detailed government plans to maximise the economic impact of the Olympic Games.

Chapter 4 Special Minister of State

The Committee heard evidence from the Hon John Della Bosca, Special Minister of State, together with Dr Col Gellatly, Director General, Premier's Department, Mr David Bowen, General Manager, Motor Accidents Authority, Mr Warwick McDonald, Acting General Manager and Mr Rod McInnes, General Manager – Insurance Division, both of the WorkCover Authority, and Mr Geoff Barndon, Director, Office of Drug Policy, Cabinet Office, at a public hearing held on 7 June 2000. A brief summary of issues discussed at the hearing is provided below.

WorkCover Authority

Performance of the WorkCover scheme

- 4.1** The Minister and Mr McDonald were questioned about a statement made by the Minister on 26 May 2000 that gains in injury management and other reforms have stalled in the past six months. The Minister advised the Committee that a statement about further reforms to the WorkCover scheme would be made imminently.
- 4.2** The Minister undertook to provide the Committee with information about the cost of maintaining adequate remuneration to insurers if the now-stalled gains in injury management are to be reversed.

Postponement of the move to private underwriting

- 4.3** The Minister responded to questions about the postponement of the move to private underwriting. The Minister indicated that representatives of the insurance industry were given a briefing about the postponement of the decision.

Promotion and prevention of injuries and diseases in the workplace

- 4.4** The Minister provided the Committee with details about resources targeting the promotion and prevention of injuries and diseases.

Injury management

- 4.5** The Minister explained the approach being developed by WorkCover to injury management.

Work safety education campaign

- 4.6** The Minister provided details about WorkCover's media campaign targeted at educating the community about work safety.

Review of WorkCover

- 4.7** The Minister and Mr MacDonald responded to questions about a review of WorkCover.

Relocation of WorkCover to Gosford

- 4.8** In response to questioning about the relocation of WorkCover to Gosford, Mr MacDonald provided information about current leases of premises in Sydney and redundancies offered to employees.

WorkCover scheme deficit

- 4.9** The Minister and Mr MacDonald provided information to the Committee about the deficit in the WorkCover scheme, that is, the difference between the assets currently held by WorkCover and what is thought to be the amount that will have to be paid out in claims at some future point. The Minister undertook to provide the Committee with information about projections of the deficit for June 2000, December 2000 and June 2001.

Australian New Zealand Standard Industry Classification (ANZSIC) system

- 4.10** Mr McInnes briefly explained the difference between the current industrial system of classification and the ANZSIC system. Mr McInnes confirmed that adoption of the new scheme will result in an increase of premiums for some industries.

Motor Accidents Authority**Cost of implementing changes to the Motor Accidents Compensation Scheme**

- 4.11** Mr Bowen provided the Committee with information about the cost of implementing changes to the Motor Accidents Compensation Scheme.

Claim by Ms McCorkell

- 4.12** Mr Bowen responded to questions about a claim made by a Miss McCorkell.

Green slips

- 4.13** The Minister responded to questions about current and future costs of green slips in New South Wales.

Shareholdings

- 4.14** The Minister responded to questions about the nature of his shareholding responsibilities as a Minister.

Integral Energy

- 4.15** The Minister undertook to provide information to the Committee about when he first become aware of some serious matters referred to in the House relating to Integral Energy.

Drug Summit Implementation

Medically supervised injecting room

- 4.16** The Minister responded to questions about progress towards the establishment of an 18-month trial of a medically supervised injecting room in Kings Cross, and provided information about the budgeted cost of the establishment and operation the medically supervised injecting room.
- 4.17** The Minister undertook to provide information to the Committee about evaluation criteria of the success of the medically supervised injecting room.

Office of Drug Policy

- 4.18** The Minister indicated that the budget made provision for \$960,000 for an Office of Drug Policy, located within the Cabinet Office and responsible to the Minister. The Minister indicated the Office of Drug Policy will undertake a number of functions to assist in the implement of the government's drug policies.

Regional Services Delivery Plan

- 4.19** The Minister provided details of the government's regional service delivery plan, aimed at bringing all agencies together to make whole-of-government decisions about structural change, leading to integrated service delivery for services outside the metropolitan area.

Chapter 5 Education and Training

The Committee heard evidence from the Hon John Aquilina MP, Minister for Education and Training, together with Mr Terry Burke, Relieving Director General, and Mr Ken Dixon, General Manager of Finance, both of the Department of Education and Training, at a public hearing held on 8 June 2000. A brief summary of issues discussed at the hearing is provided below. During the course of the hearing a three page document was tabled in relation to the portfolio area of Education. A list of tabled documents is provided at Appendix 1.

Manly High School

- 5.1** The Minister responded to questions about why the position of principal at Manly High School, a selective high school, had been advertised at a higher salary rate than that paid to principals at similar high schools.

Reduction in public school enrolments

- 5.2** In response to a question about the reduction of enrolments in public schools, the Minister told the Committee that while enrolments in secondary schools had decreased, enrolments in primary schools had increased. The Minister outlined government strategies to reverse the trend in secondary schools.
- 5.3** The Minister further indicated that studies were being conducted to determine factors that might influence parents to enrol their children in non-government schools.

Funding for ESL programs and numbers of ESL teachers

- 5.4** The Minister provided information about funding for the English as a Second Language (ESL) program and outlined the relationship between student demand and teacher numbers. The Minister undertook to provide more specific information to the Committee about these issues.

Closure of public schools

- 5.5** The Minister was asked about discussions and plans relating to the closure of public schools, with particular reference to Ultimo Public School.

Funding for schools

- 5.6** The Minister responded to a number of questions about the reduction of funding for category 1 to 3 schools, and tendered documents detailing the funding provided to these schools by the State and Commonwealth governments.

5.7 Commonwealth funding for schools and the impact of the enrolment benchmark adjustment (EBA) was discussed at some length. The Relieving Director General undertook to provide the Committee with information about Commonwealth funding for schools.

5.8 The Relieving Director General confirmed that legal advice had been provided to the Department by the Solicitor General about the government's EBA policy funding cuts.

Allocation of funds to non-government schools

5.9 The Minister confirmed that there is a legislative provision under the Education Act for the government to provide certain funds to non-government schools.

School security

5.10 The Minister provided details of a new initiative to reduce school property losses, which involves marking items with a serial number which in turn assists police in identifying stolen property.

Funding for TAFE

5.11 The Minister was asked to provide details of the percentage of the state budget spent on non-government schools and on TAFEs.

5.12 The General Manager of Finance undertook to provide information to the Committee about the Commonwealth's contribution to TAFE New South Wales.

Capital works priorities

5.13 The Minister and the Relieving Director General answered questions about the Department's capital works priorities.

Closure of Seaforth TAFE

5.14 The Minister and the Relieving Director General responded to a series of questions about the closure of Seaforth TAFE. Issues raised included: plans for the property and buildings of the former TAFE; the cost of securing and maintaining the site; the cost of alterations at the Brookvale site; savings resulting from the closure; the impact of the closure on staff employment; disabled access at the Brookvale site; and the cost of renting laboratory facilities.

Basic skills testing

5.15 The Minister advised the Committee that the new Teacher's award specifically includes the cooperation of the Teachers Federation in relation to basic skills testing.

Harbord Primary School

- 5.16** The Minister undertook to provide the Committee with information about capital works funding for rebuilding of areas damaged in a fire at Harbord Primary School in December 1998.

Conservatorium of Music

- 5.17** Questions were asked about funding for the precinct of the Conservatorium of Music. The Minister indicated that this funding related to heritage work associated with the redevelopment of the site.

Performance bonus for Director General

- 5.18** With respect to a performance bonus for the Director General of the Department, the Minister advised that no performance bonus had been paid at this stage.

Education needs of State wards and children in care

- 5.19** The Minister was asked what provision exists in the budget to address the particular educational needs of State wards and children in care.

Wilcannia school

- 5.20** The Minister advised the Committee that children at Wilcannia School had returned to school in large numbers.

Disadvantaged schools program

- 5.21** The Minister answered questions about the disadvantaged schools program.

Adult migrant English services program

- 5.22** The Minister undertook to provide an explanation to the Committee about why the adult migrant English services program does not appear in the Budget Papers.

Funding for salary increases

- 5.23** The Minister provided information about how salary increases for teachers will be funded.

TAFE sponsorship of the Olympics

- 5.24** A series of questions were asked about TAFE's sponsorship of the Olympics.

Olympic Opportunity tickets

- 5.25** The Minister responded to questions about the involvement of schools in the Olympic Opportunity ticket program.

TAFE class sizes

- 5.26** The Minister provided information about TAFE class sizes.

Funding for a multicultural library in TAFE

- 5.27** The Minister undertook to provide the Committee with information about whether there is funding for a multicultural library in TAFE.

Funding and support for computers in schools

- 5.28** In response to questioning, the Minister provided details about the Computers in Schools program and the related teacher training program.

Initiatives in Western Sydney

- 5.29** With respect to initiatives undertaken in Western Sydney, the Minister advised that two multicampus schools are being established, Wyndham College and Chifley College.

Teaching arrangements for multicampus schools

- 5.30** The Minister answered questions about teaching arrangements for multicampus schools.

Truancy

- 5.31** The Minister outlined steps being taken to combat truancy in government schools.

Chapter 6 The Legislature

The Committee heard evidence from the Hon Dr Meredith Burgmann MLC, President of the Legislative Council, together with Mr John Evans, Clerk of the Parliaments, Mr Stafford Bennett, Manager, Parliamentary Building Services, Mr David Draper, Manager, Food and Beverage Services, Ms Mallika Ganesan, Acting Manager, Parliamentary Information Technology Services, Mr Greg McGill, Financial Controller, and Mr Rob Brian, Parliamentary Librarian, at a public hearing held on 9 June 2000. A brief summary of issues discussed at the hearing is provided below. During the course of the hearing two documents were tabled. A list of documents tabled is provided at Appendix 1.

ISDN links

- 6.1** The President and the Manager of Information Technology Services answered questions regarding the cost and provision of ISDN links to Members of the Legislative Council.

Overseas delegations

- 6.2** The President provided information about the cost to the Legislative Council of an overseas delegation to a sister-city in Japan.

Financial Controller

- 6.3** The Financial Controller answered questions concerning the nature of his position and duties.

Visiting delegations

- 6.4** The President provided information about the number of visiting delegations and official visitors to the Legislative Council.

Procedural and administrative support

- 6.5** The President and the Clerk of the Legislative Council indicated that they would provide details about the reduction in staff numbers (from 31 to 28) in the procedural and administrative areas, and what cost savings have been achieved through that reduction.

Disposal of assets

- 6.6** The President indicated that the Legislative Council followed Government guidelines with respect to the disposal of assets such as furniture and equipment.

Funding and resources for General Purpose Standing Committees and Joint Committees

- 6.7** The President provided information about funding for Parliamentary Committees, and in particular the way in which costings are apportioned between the two Houses for joint committees.

Subsidisation of food and alcohol in Parliament

- 6.8** The Manager of Food and Beverage Services indicated that the provision of food in Parliament is not subsidised during non-sitting periods or for out of hours functions. He further indicated that alcohol is not subsidised and in some cases is more expensive than alcohol bought outside of Parliament.

Profits from the House Committee

- 6.9** The Manager of Catering Services informed the Committee that profits from the House Committee are remitted to Treasury each year.

Replacement of furniture for Members of Parliament and their staff

- 6.10** The President informed the Committee that furniture is replaced if it is worn or broken. The Manager of Building Services indicated that orders had been placed for approximately \$60,000 worth of ergonomic furniture and that additional orders would be placed as funds allowed.

Level of maintenance staff

- 6.11** The Manager of Building Services informed the Committee that the staff increases (from 54 to 61) in Building Services were due to the filling of vacant positions. The total number is still below the establishment level.

Revenue sources for Parliament

- 6.12** The President outlined some of the revenue sources for Parliament, including the refund of legal fees in the matter of *Egan v Willis* for the amount of \$137,000, and rent collected from Ministers for their use of Ministerial Offices within Parliament. The President also described how the rent monies, once remitted to Parliament, are apportioned to the Legislative Council.

Operating costs of Legislative Council

- 6.13** The Committee asked questions relating to the reported alleged increase in operating costs of the Legislative Council. The President and the Clerk of the Legislative Council refuted such allegations as misleading. The Clerk tabled information, which was incorporated into *Hansard*, which supported their statements.

Salaries and allowances for the President of the Legislative Council and other office holders

- 6.14** The President provided information about the budget allocation to the President and 'others'. The President also noted that 'others' in the budget papers refers to other office holders in the Legislative Council such as Whips and Parliamentary Secretaries.
- 6.15** The President also answered questions with respect to the number of staff employed by the Deputy President and the provision of a vehicle to the Deputy President.

Disabled access to Parliament

- 6.16** The President and the Manager of Building Services advised the Committee that the Parliament was planning to build a permanent ramp to replace the temporary ramp on the Legislative Council side of the building.

Disability action plan and environmental audit

- 6.17** The Manager of Building Services indicated that a draft disability action plan and an environmental audit have been prepared and are currently being actioned.

Dining ware

- 6.18** The President answered questions relating to the purchase and audit of crockery and silverware.

Parliament House and the Olympics

- 6.19** The President informed the Committee that Parliament would be open for extended hours during the Olympics and that invitations have been sent to National Olympic Committees offering the use of Parliament for receptions and other activities.
- 6.20** The President also advised that arrangements have been made for adequate staffing during the extended operating hours of Parliament during the Olympics.

Security staffing arrangements

- 6.21** Members of the Committee asked questions relating to the provision of contract security staff, as well as general staffing arrangements within Security.

Storage problems within Parliament - scanners

- 6.22** Members of the Committee questioned the Committee about possible solutions to the storage problems being experienced by Members in their offices. Some solutions discussed related to the provision of electronic information to Members and the provision of scanners.

Hansard

- 6.23** The President was asked why *Hansard* was not available to committees during non-sitting periods. The President indicated that she would take the question on notice.

Chapter 7 Administrative matters

Conduct of the budget estimates hearings

Questions by Topic

- 7.1** During 1999, hearings into the Budget Estimates, the Committee allocated time for questions equally between the Opposition and Independent members. This year, the Committee instead agreed to ask questions about a specific topic, such as Olympic ticketing, until questions from all members on that topic were exhausted, before proceeding on to a new topic. Members found this process allowed for more effective questioning of witnesses and recommend its use in future hearings.

Questions on notice

- 7.2** No questions were placed on notice prior to the public hearings.
- 7.3** The Committee has set 14 July 2000 as the date by which all Ministers should respond to questions placed on notice at, or after, the hearing. Responses to these questions will be tabled in the Legislative Council, in a second volume to this report, once they are received.

Supplementary hearings

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

Appendix 1 – Documents tabled at the hearings

Wednesday 7 June 2000

Treasury

Letter from Mr Phil Green, Managing Director, Lithgow Aluminium Smelters, to the Hon John Della Bosca MLC, Special Minister of State and Assistant Treasurer, dated 2 March 2000, relating to the status of power negotiations for the aluminium smelter project.

Thursday 8 June 2000

Education

Three page table, dated 5 June 2000, titled “Adjustment of \$5 million to category 1, 2 and 3 schools in the 1999/2000 financial year – includes Commonwealth supplementation”

Friday 9 June 2000

The Legislature

Chart, undated, titled “L.C. Parliamentary Representation”, depicting yearly expenditure on parliamentary representation (including salaries of Members and their staff, and Members entitlements) for the financial years from 1995/996 to 1998/99.

Chart, undated, titled “Operation of Legislative Council”, depicting yearly expenditure on operational costs for the Legislative Council for the financial years from 1995/996 to 1998/99.

Proceedings of the Committee

Minutes No. 36

Tuesday 6 June 2000
At Parliament House at 5.15 pm

1. **Members Present**

Rev Nile (in the Chair)
Mr Harwin (Forsythe)
Mr Kelly
Mr Primrose
Mr Samios (Moppett)
Mr Tsang
Dr Wong

2. **Budget Estimates 2000-2001**

The Chairman advised that Mr Harwin would be representing Mrs Forsythe and Mr Samios would be representing Mr Moppett.

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

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Samios, that the following allocations of time be adhered to during the hearing: Opposition – 30 minutes, Dr Wong – 15 minutes, Rev Nile – 15 minutes, Opposition – 30 minutes, Dr Wong – 15 minutes, Rev Nile – 15 minutes.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Samios, that if the Premier has to absent himself to attend a division the Committee will adjourn until he returns.

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

Premier's Department

Dr Col Gellatly, Director General

The Cabinet Office

Mr Roger Wilkins, Director General

The public and media were admitted.

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

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

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

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 the motion of Mr Tsang, 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 Friday, 9 June 2000.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Primrose, 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 Friday, 16 June 2000.

3. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7.31pm until 5.20pm on Wednesday, 7 June 2000

Anna McNicol
Director

Minutes No. 37

Tuesday 6 June 2000
At Parliament House at 7.45 pm

1. Members Present

Rev Nile (in the Chair)
Mr Bull (Moppett)
Mr Gallacher (Forsythe)
Mr Kelly
Mr Primrose
Mr Tsang
Dr Wong

2. Budget Estimates 2000-2001

The Chairman advised that Mr Bull would be representing Mr Moppett and Mr Gallacher would be representing Mrs Forsythe.

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

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Gallacher, that the Committee exhaust questions on each subject matter in turn, rather than allocating fixed periods of time for particular Members' questions.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Bull, that if the Minister has to absent himself to attend a division the Committee will continue to examine witnesses.

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

Olympic Coordination Authority

Mr David Richmond, Director General

Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games

Mr Michael Eyres, Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Olympic Roads and Transport Authority

Mr Ron Christie, Chief Executive Officer

Office of the Minister for the Olympics

Ms Alison Milne, Policy Advisor

The public and media were admitted.

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

The Chairman declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio area of the Olympics open for examination.

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

The Minister withdrew in order to attend a division.

Examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio area of the Olympics continued.

The Minister returned from the division.

Examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio area of the Olympics continued.

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 the motion of Mr Primrose, that any additional questions relating to the portfolio area of the Olympics be lodged with the Director of the General Purpose Standing Committees by Friday, 16 June 2000.

3. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10.10pm until 5.20pm on Wednesday, 7 June 2000.

Anna McNicol
Director

Minutes No. 38

Wednesday 7 June 2000
At Parliament House at 5.20 pm

1. Members Present

Revd Nile (in the Chair)
Mr Johnson (Tsang)
Mr Kelly
Mr Moppett
Mr Primrose
Mr Ryan (Forsythe)
Dr Wong

2. Budget Estimates reference

The Chairman advised that Mr Johnson would be representing Mr Tsang and Mr Ryan would be representing Mrs Forsythe.

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

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Moppett, that the Committee exhaust questions on each subject matter in turn, rather than allocating fixed periods of time for particular Members' questions.

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

NSW Treasury

Mr John Pierce, Secretary
Mr Peter Achterstratt, Executive Director, Office of State Revenue

Department of State and Regional Development

Mr Loftus Harris, Director General

The public and media were admitted.

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

The Chairman 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 sought leave to table a document.

Leave granted.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Ryan, 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 tabled by the Minister.

Mr Johnson and Mr Kelly granted leave to absent themselves from the hearing to attend a meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Treasury and State Development continued.

Mr Johnson and Mr Kelly returned.

Examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Treasury and State Development continued.

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 the motion of Dr Wong, that any additional questions relating to the portfolio areas of the Treasury and State Development be lodged with the Director of the General Purpose Standing Committees by Friday, 16 June 2000.

3. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7.34 pm until 7.50pm on Wednesday, 7 June 2000.

Anna McNicol
Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No. 39

Wednesday 7 June 2000
At Parliament House at 7.50 pm

1. Members Present

Revd Nile (in the Chair)
Mr Gallacher (Moppett)
Mr Kelly
Mr Lynn (Forsythe)
Mr Manson (Tsang)
Mr Primrose
Dr Wong

2. Budget Estimates reference

The Chairman advised that Mr Gallacher would be representing Mr Moppett, Mr Lynn would be representing Mrs Forsythe and Mr Manson would be representing Mr Tsang.

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

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Gallacher, that the Committee exhaust questions on each subject matter in turn, rather than allocating fixed periods of time for particular Members' questions.

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

Premier's Department

Dr Col Gellatly, Director General

The Cabinet Office

Mr Geoff Barnden, Director, Office of Drug Policy

Motor Accidents Authority

Mr David Bowen, General Manager
Mr Mamoon Rashid, Financial Controller
Ms Jill Muddle, Manager, Insurance Division

WorkCover Authority

Mr Warwick McDonald, Acting General Manager
Mr Rod McInnes, General Manager – Insurance Division
Mr Peter Burrows, Finance Manager

Dust Diseases Board

Mr Geoff Lansley, Executive Officer
Mr Andrew Ho, Manager, Financial Services

Office of the Minister

Mr M Stassberg
Ms F Maguire
Ms J Hatcher
Ms R Wannous
Mr L Daly

The public and media were admitted.

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

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

The public and media withdrew.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Primrose, 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 Friday, 16 June 2000.

3. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10.05 pm until 6.50pm on Thursday, 8 June 2000.

Anna McNicol
Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No. 40

Thursday 8 June 2000
At Parliament House at 6.50 pm

1. Members Present

Revd Nile (in the Chair)
Mr Samios (Moppett)
Ms Burnswoods (Kelly)
Mrs Forsythe
Mr Manson (Tsang)
Mr Primrose
Dr Wong

Ms Rhiannon (participating)

2. Budget Estimates reference

The Chairman advised that Mr Samios would be representing Mr Moppett, Ms Burnswoods would be representing Mr Kelly and Mr Manson would be representing Mr Tsang.

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

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Forsythe, that the Committee exhaust questions on each subject matter in turn, rather than allocating fixed periods of time for particular Members' questions.

The Hon John Aulaini MP, Minister for Education, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisors:

Department of Education and Training

Dr Terry Bourke, Relieving Director General
Ms J McLelland, Deputy Director General, Corporate Services
Mr Ken Dixon, General Manager of Finance
Ms J Dixon, General Manager, Finance

Board of Studies

Mr J Ward, General Manager

Office of the Minister

Mr T Gran
Ms J Shand

The public and media were admitted.

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

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

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

The Minister tendered three documents to support his evidence.

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

Resolved, on motion of Mr Samios, 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 tabled by the Minister.

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 the motion of Mr Primrose, that any additional questions relating to the portfolio areas of Education and Training be lodged with the Director of the General Purpose Standing Committees by Friday, 16 June 2000.

3. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9.15 pm until 4.20pm on Friday, 9 June 2000.

Anna McNicol
Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No. 41

Friday 9 June 2000
At Parliament House at 4.20 pm

1. Members Present

Revd Nile (in the Chair)
Mr Dyer (Tsang)
Mr Jobling (Moppett)
Mr Kelly
Mr Primrose
Mr Ryan (Forsythe)
Dr Wong

Ms Rhiannon (participating)

2. Budget Estimates reference

The Chairman advised that Mr Dyer would be representing Mr Tsang, Mr Jobling would be representing Mr Moppett and Mr Ryan would be representing Mrs Forsythe.

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

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Jobling, that the Committee exhaust questions on each subject matter in turn, rather than allocating fixed periods of time for particular Members' questions.

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

Mr John Evans, Clerk of the Parliaments
Mr G McGill, Financial Controller
Mr S Bennett, Manager, Parliamentary Building Services
Mr R Brian, Parliamentary Librarian
Mr D Draper, Manager, Food and Beverage Services
Ms M Ganesan, Acting Manager, Parliamentary Information Technology Services
Ms Y Andres, Office of the President

The public and media were admitted.

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

The oath was administered to Mr McGill.

The Chairman 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 sought leave to table two documents.

Leave granted.

Mr Jobling sought leave for the documents to be incorporated into the transcript of proceedings.

Leave granted.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Jobling, 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 tabled by the President.

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

The public and media withdrew.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Primrose, that any additional questions relating to the portfolio area of the Legislature be lodged with the Director of the General Purpose Standing Committees by Friday, 16 June 2000.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Jobling, that the Committee meet from 10.00am to 11.00am on Wednesday, 21 June 2000, to deliberate on the Chairman's draft report on the Budget Estimates.

3. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6.23 pm until 10.00am on Wednesday, 21 June 2000.

Anna McNicol
Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No. 42

Wednesday 21 June 2000
At Parliament House at 10.00 am

1. Members Present

Revd Nile (in the Chair)
Mr Kelly
Mr Forsythe
Mr Johnson (Tsang)
Mr Primrose
Mr Samios (Moppett)
Dr Wong

2. Confirmation of minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Forsythe, that minutes of meetings number 36 to 41 be confirmed.

3. Budget Estimates reference

The Chairman submitted his draft report entitled "Budget Estimates 2000-2001, Volume 1", which having been circulated to each Member of the Committee, was accepted as being read.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Primrose, that paragraph 4.15 be amended by deleting the word "serious" from the phrase "some serious matters".

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Primrose, that the report, as amended, be adopted.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Primrose, that the report be signed by the Chairman and presented to the House in accordance with the resolution referring the Budget Estimates.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Primrose, that the documents received in relation to the inquiry be tabled with the report and made public.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Primrose, that 5pm on Friday 14 July 2000 be the date by which Ministers are requested to respond to questions placed on notice in relation to each of the portfolios examined by the Committee, and that answers received be made available to Members of the Committee by 5pm on Monday 17 July 2000.

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Forsythe, 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 to questions placed on notice, after these answers have been circulated to Committee Members.

4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10.25 am sine die.

Anna McNicol
Clerk to the Committee