

General Purpose Standing Committee No 1

Budget Estimates 2000-2001

Volume 2

Ordered to be printed 29 August 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:

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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

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Chairman's Foreword

The resolution referring the 2000-2001 Budget Estimates requires the General Purpose Standing Committees to present a final report to the House by the first sitting day in August 2000.

This report provides information about the timeframe in which Ministers responded to questions placed on notice during and after the initial round of Budget Estimates hearings, held in June 2000 (refer to the Committee's report *Budget Estimates 2000-2001, Volume 1*).

The Committee did not conduct any supplementary Budget Estimate hearings.

The Rev Hon Fred Nile MLC
Chairman

Questions on notice – all portfolios

Following completion of the initial round of budget estimates hearings, the Committee set 14 July 2000 as the date by which Ministers were to respond to questions placed on notice. The table below details the dates on which hearings were held, questions were forwarded to Ministers and responses were received.

| Portfolio | Date of hearing | Date that Committee forwarded questions on notice | Date that Committee received responses to questions on notice |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|--|--|
| Premier, the Arts, Citizenship | 6 June 2000 | 21 June 2000 | 27 July 2000 |
| Olympics | 6 June 2000 | 23 June 2000 | 27 July 2000 |
| Treasury, State Development | 7 June 2000 | 22 June 2000 | 27 July 2000 |
| Special Minister of State | 7 June 2000 | 21 June 2000 | 27 July 2000 |
| Education and Training | 8 June 2000 | 23 June 2000 | 27 July 2000 |
| The Legislature | 9 June 2000 | 20 June 2000 | 19 July 2000 |

Proceedings of the Committee

Minutes No. 48

Tuesday 29 August 2000
At Parliament House at 5.10 pm

1. Members Present

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

2. Confirmation of minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Dr Wong, that the minutes of meetings no 35 and 47 be confirmed.

3. Correspondence

The Chairman tabled six items of correspondence received.

Correspondence from the Hon Meredith Burgmann, President of the Legislative Council, to Director, dated 18 July 2000 (received 19 July 2000), providing responses to questions placed on notice relating to the 2000-2001 Budget Estimates reference.

Correspondence from the Hon Michael Knight MP, Minister for the Olympics, to Director, dated 14 July 2000 (received 27 July 2000), providing responses to questions placed on notice relating to the 2000-2001 Budget Estimates reference.

Correspondence from the Hon John Della Bosca MLC, Special Minister of State and Minister for Industrial Relations, to Director, undated (received 27 July 2000), providing responses to questions placed on notice relating to the 2000-2001 Budget Estimates reference.

Answers to questions placed on notice relating to the 2000-2001 Budget Estimates reference, from the Hon John Aquilina MP, Minister for Education and Training, undated (received 27 July 2000).

Correspondence from Mr Col Gellatly, Director General, Premier's Department, to Chairman, dated 18 July 2000 (received 27 July 2000), providing responses to questions placed on notice relating to the 2000-2001 Budget Estimates reference.

Correspondence from the Hon John Della Bosca MLC, Acting Treasurer, to Director, dated 19 July 2000 (received 27 August 2000), providing responses to questions placed on notice relating to the 2000-2001 Budget Estimates reference.

4. Budget Estimates reference

The Chairman submitted his draft report entitled "Budget Estimates 2000-2001, Volume 2", which having been circulated to each Member of the Committee, was accepted as being read.

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Forsythe, that the report be adopted.

Resolved, on the motion of Dr Wong, 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 Dr Wong, that responses to questions on notice be tabled with the report and made public.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5.15 pm *sine die*.

Anna McNicol
Director