

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1

Budget Estimates 2006-2007

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How to contact the committee

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

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Terms of reference

1. That the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2006-2007 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. That a daily Hansard record of the hearings of a committee on the Budget Estimates be published as soon as practicable after each day's proceedings.
10. That the hearings be held according to the following timetable:*

Monday 28 August 2006

9.00 am to 1.00 pm

GPSC 1: Premier, State Development, Citizenship

GPSC 3: Justice, Juvenile Justice

2.00 pm to 6.00 pm

GPSC 4: Local Government, Western Sydney, Fair Trading

GPSC 5: Water Utilities, Regional Development, Small Business, Illawarra

8.00 pm to 10.30 pm

GPSC 1: The Legislature

GPSC 2: Tourism and Sport and Recreation, Women, Aboriginal Affairs

*Note: This timetable was varied by the Leader of the Government. The final timetable for Budget Estimates 2006-2007 is on Parliament's website.

Friday 1 September 2006

9.00 am to 1.00 pm

GPSC 1: Industrial Relations, Commerce, Finance

GPSC 4: Roads

2.00 pm to 6.00 pm

GPSC 3: Police

GPSC 5: Energy, Ports, Waterways

8.00 pm to 10.30 pm

GPSC 3: Gaming and Racing, Central Coast

GPSC 4: Housing

Monday 4 September 2006

9.00 am to 1.00 pm

GPSC 1: Treasury, Infrastructure, Hunter

GPSC 2: Health

2.00 pm to 6.00 pm

GPSC 1: Education and Training

GPSC 5: Environment, Arts

8.00 pm to 10.30 pm

GPSC 2: Community Services, Youth

GPSC 5: Primary Industries

Friday 8 September 2006

9.00 am to 1.00 pm

GPSC 2: Ageing and Disability Services

GPSC 4: Planning, Redfern and Waterloo, Science and Medical Research

2.00 pm to 6.00 pm

GPSC 3: Lands, Emergency Services, Rural Affairs

GPSC 4: Transport

8.00 pm to 10.30 pm

GPSC 3: Attorney General

GPSC 5: Natural Resources, Mineral Resources.

11. The committees may hold supplementary hearings as required.
12. The committees are to present a final report to the House by the last sitting day in November 2006.
13. The timetable in paragraph 10 may be varied by the Leader of the Government, provided the time allocated for each portfolio hearing is not reduced.
14. Members may lodge with the Clerk to the committee proposed issues for questioning up to seven days prior to the holding of the initial hearing for that portfolio.
15. Members may lodge questions on notice with the Clerk to the committee during a Budget Estimates hearing and up to two days following.

Committee membership

Revd the Hon Fred Nile MLC	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	<i>Chair</i>
The Hon Robyn Parker MLC	Liberal Party	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
The Hon Catherine Cusack MLC	Liberal Party	
The Hon Peter Primrose MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Ms Lee Rhiannon MLC	The Greens	
The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC	Australian Labor Party	
The Hon Ian West MLC	Australian Labor Party	

Other members who attended the hearings

The Hon Henry Tsang MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon John Ryan MLC	Liberal Party
The Hon Don Harwin MLC	Liberal Party
The Hon Amanda Fazio MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon Jan Burnswoods MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon Melinda Pavey MLC	The Nationals
The Hon Greg Pearce MLC	Liberal Party
The Hon Greg Donnelly MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon David Clarke MLC	Liberal Party
The Hon Michael Gallacher MLC	Liberal Party

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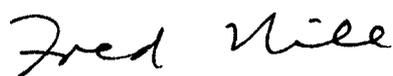
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Chair's foreword

I am pleased to present the report of General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1 on the 2006-2007 Budget Estimates. The Committee examined the following portfolio areas:

- Premier
- State Development
- Citizenship
- Education and Training
- Commerce
- Finance
- Industrial Relations
- Treasury
- Infrastructure
- Hunter
- The Legislature.

The Committee would like to thank the Ministers and other witnesses who gave evidence during the Inquiry.



Revd the Hon Fred Nile MLC

Chair

Chapter 1 Introduction

Referral of the 2006-2007 Budget Estimates

- 1.1 On Thursday 8 June 2006, the Legislative Council resolved ‘that the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2006-2007 presenting the amounts to be appropriated from the Consolidated Fund be referred to the GPSCs for inquiry and report’.¹
- 1.2 Each committee was to examine the Budget Estimates for the relevant portfolios and report to the House by the last sitting day of November 2006.²

Hearings

- 1.3 The Committee held five public hearings as follows:
- Monday 28 August – The Legislature
 - Monday 28 August – Premier, State Development, Citizenship
 - Friday 1 September – Industrial Relations, Commerce, Finance
 - Monday 4 September – Treasury, Infrastructure, Hunter
 - Monday 4 September – Education and Training.
- 1.4 A brief summary of the key issues raised during the hearings is contained in Chapter 2.

Transcripts

- 1.5 Transcripts of the hearings are available on the Committee’s web page at www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc1.

Questions on notice

- 1.6 Questions taken on notice, and the answers to these questions, are also available on the Committee’s web page.

¹ *Minutes of Proceedings, No 7, 2nd Session of the 53rd Parliament, 8 June 2006, item 25*

² *Minutes of Proceedings, No 7, 2nd Session of the 53rd Parliament, 8 June 2006, item 25, para 12*

Chapter 2 Issues raised during hearings

This Chapter provides a brief summary by portfolio of the key issues raised during the hearings.

The Legislature

2.1 A hearing examining the portfolio of The Legislature was held on Monday 28 August 2006. The following issues were raised:

- impact of reductions to the parliamentary budget on services and staffing levels
- likely impact of industrial action on Parliament's activities
- Parliament House building maintenance
- disability access and facilities at Parliament House
- Occupational Health & Safety issues for members of the Press Gallery
- user charges for lobbyists and the Press Gallery
- changes to Parliamentary Food and Beverage Services
- new security measures at Parliament House
- Fountain Court coffee cart
- childcare facilities for Parliament House members and staff
- removal of two Royal portraits from the Strangers Dining Room
- facilities at Parliament House for the perusal of privileged documents
- strengthening Parliament's autonomy over its own budget
- excellent service provided by parliamentary Education and Community Relations
- contribution of the NSW Legislative Council to the Parliament of the Solomon Islands.

Premier, State Development, Citizenship

2.2 A hearing examining the portfolios of Premier, State Development and Citizenship was held on Monday 28 August 2006. The following issues were raised:

- impact of parliamentary budget cuts
- impact of industrial action planned by the Public Sector Association
- disclosure of political donations
- compensation issues in relation to the Lane Cove Tunnel
- amount of material released under Freedom of Information legislation

- counter-terrorism preparedness
- registration of political parties for forthcoming State election
- World Youth Day 2008
- Budget allocation for the Ombudsman's office
- location of the Office for Women in the Premier's Department
- Strategic Projects Unit and the NSW Draft State Plan
- infrastructure and investment in regional and rural NSW
- attracting skilled workers to NSW
- Premier's Delivery Unit (within the Premier's department)
- entitlements of the former Premier, Mr Carr.

Industrial Relations, Commerce, Finance

2.3 A hearing examining the portfolios of Industrial Relations, Commerce and Finance was held on Friday 1 September 2006. The following issues were raised:

- Workers Compensation reforms resulting in premium savings, increased reliability, life-time care and no fault provisions for children
- WorkChoices legislation and maintenance of standards of employment for NSW public servants, young people in apprenticeship, clothing outworkers and entitlements and the social ramifications of the Commonwealth legislation
- small business initiatives in safety
- workplace deaths and injury, new workplace safety initiatives including the introduction of counsellors and workplace inspections
- smoking in the workplace and health of workers
- school project management and modular classrooms
- improvements in provision of disability equipment and aids
- commerce contracts and safety management
- procurement policies and implementation including Fleet management – purchase rather than lease, LPG conversions
- changes to Government advertising
- extension of NSW broadband network
- IT contracts, costs and control of intellectual property
- increased benefits for children and increased cost of greenslips.

Treasury, Infrastructure, Hunter

2.4 A hearing examining the portfolios of Treasury, Infrastructure and Hunter was held on Monday 4 September 2006. The following issues were raised:

- State Infrastructure Plan
- monitoring infrastructure project delays
- road tolls
- public sector redundancies
- payroll tax rebates
- procurement code of practice
- GST inequities between states
- outstanding fines, particularly relating to workplace injuries
- manufacturing in NSW
- audit of surplus land
- Illawarra region infrastructure issues
- mining, manufacturing and environmental issues in the Hunter
- cuts to the Parliamentary budget.

Education and Training

2.5 A hearing examining the portfolio of Education and Training was held on Monday 4 September 2006. The following issues were raised:

- attendance by Aboriginal students
- Non Government Schools Assistance Program
- English as a Second Language program
- Greenshaw Report
- assistance for students in drought-affected rural and remote areas
- Emotional Disturbances and Behavioural Disturbances (EDBD) schools
- Class Size Reduction Program
- qualifications of teachers in EDBD schools
- discipline and truancy
- accreditation of teachers
- religious education in State schools
- student achievement reports

- preschool funding
- qualifications of school counsellors
- use of 'time out' in mainstream and special schools
- amalgamation of the National Arts School with the University of NSW
- trade schools
- school maintenance.

Appendix 1 Witnesses

The Legislature – Monday 28 August 2006

Name	Position
Hon. Dr Meredith Burgmann	President of the Legislative Council of New South Wales
Mr John Evans	Clerk of the Parliaments
Mr Greg McGill	Financial Controller
Mr Robert Stefanic	Director, Corporate Support
Mr Ali Shariat	Manager, Parliamentary Information Technology Services

Premier, State Development, Citizenship – Monday 28 August 2006

Name	Position
Hon Morris Iemma MP	Premier, Minister for State Development, Minister for Citizenship
Dr Colin Gellatly	Director General, Premier's Office
Mr Roger Wilkins	Director General, Cabinet Office
Mr John Schmidt	Deputy Director General, Cabinet Office
Mr Loftus Harris	Director General, Department of State and Regional Development
Mr Stepan Kerkyasharian	Chair, Community Relations Commission

Industrial Relations, Commerce, Finance – Friday 1 September 2006

Name	Position
Hon John Della Bosca MLC	Minister for Commerce, Minister for Finance, Minister for Industrial Relations
Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter	Director General, Department of Commerce
Ms Pat Manser	Deputy Director General, Department of Commerce
Mr David Bowen	General Manager, Motor Accidents Authority
Mr Christopher Raper	Director General Public Employment Office
Mr Kevin Cosgriff	Deputy Secretary, Resources and Policy Directorate, NSW Treasury
Mr John Blackwell	Chief Executive Officer, WorkCover Authority
Mr John Watson	General Manager, Occupational Health and Safety
Mr Robert Thomson	General Manager, Workers Compensation, WorkCover Authority
Ms Vicki Telfer	General Manager, Strategy and Policy Division, WorkCover Authority

Treasury, Infrastructure, Hunter – Monday 4 September 2006

Name	Position
Hon Michael Costa MLC	Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for the Hunter
Mr John Pierce	Secretary, NSW Treasury
Mr Peter Achterstraat	Executive Director and Chief Commissioner, Office of State Revenue, NSW Treasury

Education and Training – Monday 4 September 2006

Name	Position
Hon Carmel Tebbutt MP	Minister for Education and Training
Mr Andrew Cappie Wood	Director General, Department of Education and Training, and Director, TAFE NSW
Mr Kenneth Dixon	Relieving Deputy Director General, Corporate Services, Department of Education and Training
Mr Christopher Taggart	Relieving General Manager, Finance and Administration, Department of Education and Training
Dr John Bennett	General Manager, Office of the Board of Studies
Mr David Murphy	Director, Corporate Services, Office of the Board of Studies

Appendix 2 Minutes

Minutes No 55

Wednesday, 8 March 2006

At Parliament House at 1.05 pm Rm 1153

1. Members Present

Revd Fred Nile (Chair)

Ms Robyn Parker (Deputy Chair)

Ms Catherine Cusack

Mr Greg Donnelly

Mr Peter Primrose

Ms Lee Rhiannon

Mr Ian West

2. Confirmation of Minutes 54

Resolved on motion of Mr Donnelly: That minutes 54 be confirmed.

3. ***

4. ***

5. Budget Estimates 2006-2007

The Chair undertook to discuss with Minister Kelly the process for determining the timetable for hearings for the Budget Estimates inquiry in 2006-2007, and to inform the Committee of the outcome of his discussion.

6. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 1.20 pm until a date to be determined.

Stephen Frappell

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No. 56

Monday 28 August 2006

At Parliament House at 10.20 am

1. Members present

Reverend Fred Nile (Chair)

Mr Don Harwin (Cusack)

Mr Peter Primrose

Ms Lee Rhiannon

Mr John Ryan (Parker)

Mr Henry Tsang (Sharpe)

Mr Ian West

2. **Substitute members**

The Committee noted advice of the following substitutions:

- Mr Henry Tsang to substitute for Ms Penny Sharpe
- Mr John Ryan to substitute for Ms Robyn Parker
- Mr Don Harwin to substitute for Ms Catherine Cusack.

3. **Correspondence**

The Committee noted the following item of correspondence:

Sent

- Letter to the Hon M Burgmann MLC inviting her to appear before the Committee at 10:30am, Monday 28 August 2006, noting that there were no proposed issues for questioning submitted in advance (22 August 2006).

4. **Conduct of hearing**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Primrose: That the sequence of questions to be asked alternate between Cross Bench, Opposition and Government members with 20 minutes allocated to each.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Harwin: That Ministers be requested to return answers to questions on notice taken during Budget Estimates hearings and written questions on notice lodged with the Clerk to the committee during a Budget Estimates hearing and up to two days following, within 21 days of the day on which the question is forwarded to the Minister by the Committee Clerk.

5. **Public hearing: Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2006-2007**

The public and media were admitted.

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

The Legislature

Mr John Evans, Clerk of the Parliaments

Mr Greg McGill, Financial Controller

Mr Ali Shariat, Manager Parliamentary Information Technology Services

Mr Rob Stefanic, Director-Corporate Support/Acting Manager Parliamentary Food and Beverage Services.

The Chair made a statement regarding procedural matters. All witnesses from departments, statutory bodies or corporations were sworn or affirmed. The Chair then declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio area of The Legislature open for examination.

The President and the officers accompanying the President answered questions from members of the Committee.

Evidence concluded and the witnesses, public and the media withdrew.

6. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 12.10pm until 3:45pm on Monday 28 August 2006 in Room 814.

Beverly Duffy
Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No. 57

Monday, 28 August 2006
At Parliament House at 3.50pm

1. Members present

Reverend Fred Nile (Chair)
Ms Jan Burnswoods (West)
Ms Catherine Cusack (4.30pm-4.40pm, 4.55pm-5.55pm)
Ms Amanda Fazio (Sharpe)
Ms Melinda Pavey (Parker)
Mr Greg Pearce (Cusack)
Mr Peter Primrose
Ms Lee Rhiannon

2. Substitute members

The Committee noted advice of the following substitutions:

- Ms Amanda Fazio to substitute for Ms Penny Sharpe
- Ms Jan Burnswoods to substitute for Mr Ian West
- Ms Melinda Pavey to substitute for Ms Robyn Parker
- Mr Greg Pearce to substitute for Ms Catherine Cusack in her absence from the hearing.

3. Participating members

The Committee noted advice of the following participating members:

- Mr Greg Pearce as participating member when Ms Catherine Cusack present at the hearing

The Chair advised that Ms Catherine Cusack would be attending for part of the hearing. The Chair stated that as Ms Cusack was the substantive member, when she was in the room Mr Greg Pearce would become a participating member only. Mr Pearce would be able to ask questions but not be entitled to vote or move a motion. The Chair further advised that when Ms Cusack left the room Mr Pearce would revert to being the substitute, with voting rights.

4. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Sent

- Letter to the Premier inviting him to appear before the Committee at 4:00pm, Monday 28 August 2006 noting that no proposed issues were submitted in advance for questioning (22 August 2006).

5. Conduct of hearing

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Fazio: That the portfolio of Premier be first examined, followed by the Citizenship and State Development, for times to be determined by the Committee during the course of the hearing.

6. Public hearing: Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2006-2007

The public and media were admitted.

The Hon Morris Iemma MP, Premier, Minister for State Development and Minister for Citizenship was admitted and accompanied by the following officers:

Premier's Department

Dr Col Gellatly, Director-General

The Cabinet Office

Mr Roger Wilkins, Director-General

Mr John Schmidt, Deputy Director-General

Department of State and Regional Development

Mr Loftus Harris, Director-General

Community Relations Commission

Mr Stepan Kerkyasharian, Chair

The Chair made a statement regarding procedural matters. All witnesses from departments, statutory bodies or corporations were sworn or affirmed. The Chair then declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Premier, State Development and Citizenship open for examination.

The Minister and the officers accompanying the Minister answered questions from members of the Committee.

Evidence concluded and the witnesses, public and the media withdrew.

7. Deliberative meeting***Supplementary hearings***

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Pearce: That the Committee defer a decision regarding a supplementary hearing pending receipt of the answers to questions on notice.

8. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 8.05pm until 8:45am on Friday 1 September 2006 in Room 814.

Beverly Duffy

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No. 58

Friday, 1 September 2006

At Parliament House at 8.50am

1. Members present

Reverend Fred Nile (Chair)

Mr David Clarke (Parker)

Mr Greg Donnelly (Sharpe)

Mr Peter Primrose

Ms Lee Rhiannon

Mr John Ryan (Cusack)

Mr Ian West

2. Substitute members

The Committee noted advice of the following substitutions:

- Mr Greg Donnelly to substitute for Ms Penny Sharpe
- Mr John Ryan to substitute for Ms Catherine Cusack
- Mr David Clarke to substitute for Ms Robyn Parker.

3. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Sent

- Letter to Minister Della Bosca inviting him to appear before the Committee at 9:00am, Friday 1 September 2006 noting that no proposed issues for questioning were submitted in advance (28 August 2006).

4. Conduct of hearing

Resolved, on the motion of Mr West: That Industrial Relations be examined from 9:00am until 11:00am, and Commerce and Finance be examined from 11:00am until 1:00pm.

5. Public hearing: Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2006-2007

The public and media were admitted.

The Hon John Della Bosca MLC, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Commerce and Minister for Finance was admitted and accompanied by the following officers:

NSW Treasury

Mr Kevin Cosgriff, Deputy Secretary, Resources and Policy Directorate

Premier's Department

Mr Chris Raper, Assistant Director General, Public Employment Office

WorkCover Authority

Mr Jon Blackwell, Chief Executive Officer

Mr Robert Thomson, General Manager Workers Compensation

Mr John Watson, General Manager Occupational Health & Safety

Ms Vicki Telfer, General Manager, Strategy and Policy Division

Motor Accidents Authority

Mr David Bowen, General Manager

Department of Commerce

Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter, Director General

Ms Pat Manser, Deputy Director General

Mr Alastair Hunter, Chief Financial Officer.

The Chair made a statement regarding procedural matters. All witnesses from departments, statutory bodies or corporations were sworn or affirmed. The Chair then declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Industrial Relations, Commerce and Finance open for examination.

The Minister and the officers accompanying the Minister answered questions from members of the Committee.

Mr Thomson tendered two charts: Ultimate collected and break even premium rates by policy renewal year – Actuarial evaluation December 2005 and Deficit NSW WorkCover Scheme post 2001 reforms – December 2002 projection versus December 2005 projections.

Evidence concluded and the witnesses, public and the media withdrew.

6. Deliberative meeting***Tabled documents***

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Primrose: That under section 4 of the Parliamentary Papers (Supplementary Provisions) Act 1975 and under the authority of Standing Order 224, the Committee authorises the Clerk of the Committee to publish the documents tabled during the hearing.

Supplementary hearings

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Ryan: That the Committee not hold further hearings, pending return of the answers to the questions taken on notice.

7. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 1.05pm until 8:45am on Monday 4 September 2006 in Room 814.

Katherine Fleming

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No. 59

Monday, 4 September 2006

At Parliament House at 9:00 am

1. Members present

Reverend Fred Nile (Chair)
Mr Mike Gallacher (Cusack)
Mr Greg Pearce (Parker)
Mr Peter Primrose
Ms Lee Rhiannon
Ms Penny Sharpe
Mr Ian West

2. Substitute members

The Committee noted advice of the following substitutions:

- Mr Greg Pearce to substitute for Ms Robyn Parker
- Mr Mike Gallacher to substitute for Ms Catherine Cusack

3. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Sent

- Letter to the Treasurer inviting him to appear before the Committee at 9:00am, Monday 4 September 2006 noting that no proposed issues were submitted in advance for questioning (29 August 2006).

4. Conduct of hearing

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Gallacher: That the committee ask questions in relation to all of the three portfolio areas (Treasury, Infrastructure and Hunter) throughout the course of the hearing.

5. Public hearing: Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2006-2007

The public and media were admitted.

The Hon Michael Costa MLC, Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Minister for the Hunter, was admitted and accompanied by the following officers:

NSW Treasury

Mr John Pierce, Secretary

Mr Peter Achterstraat, Executive Director and Chief Commissioner of State Revenue, Office of State Revenue.

The Chair made a statement regarding procedural matters. Witnesses from departments, statutory bodies or corporations were sworn or affirmed. The Chair then declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of the Treasury, Infrastructure and the Hunter open for examination.

The Minister and the officers accompanying the Minister answered questions from members of the Committee.

Evidence concluded and the witnesses, public and the media withdrew.

6. **Deliberative meeting**

Supplementary hearings

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Gallagher: That the Committee defer a decision about a supplementary hearing pending receipt of answers to questions on notice.

7. **Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 1:00 pm until 1:55pm on Monday 4 September 2006 in Room 814.

Beverly Duffy
Clerk to the Committee

Minutes No. 60

Monday 4 September 2006
At Parliament House at 2pm

1. **Members present**

Reverend Fred Nile (Chair)
Ms Robyn Parker (Deputy Chair)
Ms Catherine Cusack
Mr Peter Primrose
Ms Lee Rhiannon
Ms Penny Sharpe
Mr Ian West

2. **Correspondence**

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Sent

- Letter to Minister Tebbutt inviting her to appear before the Committee at 2:00pm, Monday 4 September 2006 noting that no proposed issues were submitted in advance for questioning (29 August 2006).

3. **Conduct of hearing**

The Chair reminded members of the Committee's previous resolutions regarding the time allocations for questions and the receipt of answers to questions on notice.

4. **Public hearing: Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2006-2007**

The public and media were admitted.

The Hon Carmel Tebbutt MP, Minister for Education and Training was admitted and accompanied by the following officers:

Department of Education and Training

Mr Andrew Cappie-Wood, Director General
Mr Kenneth Dixon, Relieving Deputy Director General
Mr Christopher Taggart, Relieving General Manager (Finance and Administration)

Board of Studies

Dr John Bennett, General Manager

Mr David Murphy, Director, Corporate Services.

The Chair made a statement regarding procedural matters. Witnesses from departments, statutory bodies or corporations were sworn or affirmed. The Chair then declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio area of Education and Training open for examination.

The Minister and the officers accompanying the Minister answered questions from members of the Committee.

Evidence concluded and the witnesses, public and the media withdrew.

5. Deliberative meeting***Supplementary hearings***

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Parker: That the Committee defer a decision about a supplementary hearing pending receipt of answers to questions on notice.

6. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 6:05pm sine die.

Beverly Duffy

Clerk to the Committee

Draft Minutes No. 61

Thursday, 26 October 2006

At Parliament House at 10.47am

1. Members present

Reverend Fred Nile (Chair)

Ms Robyn Parker (Deputy Chair)

Ms Catherine Cusack

Mr Peter Primrose

Ms Penny Sharpe

Mr Ian West

2. Apologies

Ms Lee Rhiannon

3. Minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Primrose: That minutes no. 56, 57, 58, 59 and 60 be confirmed.

4. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Sent

- Letter from Chair, to Hon Michael Costa MLC, Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Hunter, requesting advice of the reasons for the delay in the return of the answers to questions on notice and the anticipated return date of the answers (dated 3 October 2006)
- Emails from Principal Council Officer, attaching letters requesting answers to questions taken on notice during Budget Estimates hearings and written questions on notice submitted by members, to:
 - Hon Carmel Tebbutt MP, Minister for Education and Training, requesting answers by 28 September 2006 (dated 7 September 2006)
 - Hon Michael Costa MLC, Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Hunter, requesting answers by 28 September 2006 (dated 7 September 2006)
 - Hon John Della Bosca MLC, Minister for Industrial Relations, Commerce and Finance, requesting answers by 27 September (dated 6 September 2006)
 - Hon Morris Iemma MP, Premier, Minister for Citizenship and State Development, requesting answers by 21 September (dated 31 August 2006)
 - Hon Meredith Burgmann MLC, President of the Legislative Council, requesting answers by 21 September (dated 31 August 2006).

Received

- Letters providing answers to questions taken on notice, from:
 - Hon John Della Bosca MLC, Minister for Industrial Relations, Commerce and Finance (received 11 October 2006)
 - Hon Michael Costa MLC, Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Hunter (received 4 October 2006)
 - Hon Carmel Tebbutt MP, Minister for Education and Training (received 28 September 2006)
 - Hon Morris Iemma MP, Premier, Minister for Citizenship and State Development (received 22 September 2006)
 - Hon Meredith Burgmann MLC, President of the Legislative Council (received 18 September 2006).
- Letter from Hon John Della Bosca MLC, Minister for Industrial Relations, Commerce and Finance, to Chair, requesting an extension for the return of answers to questions on notice until 11 October 2006 (received 28 September 2006).

5. Chair's draft report

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Primrose: That the report be the report of the Committee and be presented to the House.

Members were reminded that it is the standard practice of the Clerk to correct typographical mistakes and stylistic and grammatical errors, without recourse to the Committee.

6. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 10.50am *sine die*.

Madeleine Foley
Clerk to the Committee