

General Purpose Standing Committee No 2

# **Budget Estimates 2002-2003**

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## How to contact the committee

Members of the General Purpose Standing Committee No 2 can be contacted through the Committee Secretariat. Written correspondence and inquiries should be directed to:

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## Terms of Reference

- 1) *That the Budget Estimates and related documents presenting the amounts to be appropriated from the Consolidated Fund be referred to the General Purpose Standing Committees for inquiry and report.*
- 2) *That the Committees consider the Budget Estimates in accordance with the allocation of portfolios to the Committees.*
- 3) *For the purposes of this inquiry any member of the House may attend a meeting of a Committee in relation to the Budget Estimates and question witnesses, participate in the deliberations of the Committee at such meeting and make a dissenting statement relating to the Budget Estimates, but may not vote or be counted for the purpose of any quorum.*
- 4) *The Committees must hear evidence on the Budget Estimates in public.*
- 5) *Not more than 3 Committees are to hear evidence on the Budget Estimates simultaneously.*
- 6) *When a Committee hears evidence on the Budget Estimates, the Chair is to call on items of expenditure in the order decided on and declare the proposed expenditure open for examination.*
- 7) *The Committees may ask for explanations from Ministers in the House, or officers of departments, statutory bodies or corporations, relating to the items of proposed expenditure.*
- 8) *The report of a Committee on the Budget Estimates may propose the further consideration of any items.*
- 9) *A daily Hansard record of the hearings of a Committee on the Budget Estimates is to be published as soon as practicable after each day's proceedings.*
- 10) *The Committees have leave to sit during the sittings or any adjournment of the House.*
- 11) *That initial hearings of Committees be according to a schedule prepared and circulated by the Leader of the Government.*
- 12) *The Committees may hold supplementary hearings as required.*
- 13) *The Committees present a final report to the House by Thursday 5 September 2002.*

These terms of reference were referred to the Committee by the Legislative Council on 4 June 2002 (Minutes of Proceedings No 14, p 183).

## Committee Membership

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**Hon Dr Brian Pezzutti RFD MLC** Liberal Party *Chair*

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**Hon Dr Arthur Chesterfield-Evans MLC** Australian Democrats *Deputy Chair*

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**Hon Duncan Gay MLC** National Party

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**Hon Ron Dyer MLC** Australian Labor Party

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**Hon Amanda Fazio MLC** Australian Labor Party

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**Hon Henry Tsang MLC** Australian Labor Party

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**Hon Alan Corbett MLC** Independent

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## Other Members who attended the hearings

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**Hon Richard Jones MLC** Independent

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**Hon John Jobling MLC** Liberal Party

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**Hon Janelle Saffin MLC** Australian Labor Party

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**Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC** National Party

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**Hon John Hatzistergos MLC** Australian Labor Party

---

**Hon Ian West MLC** Australian Labor Party

---

**Hon Dr Peter Wong MLC** Unity Party

---

**Hon Patricia Forsythe MLC** Liberal Party

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**Hon John Ryan MLC** Liberal Party

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**Hon Jan Burnswoods MLC** Australian Labor Party

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**Hon Peter Primrose MLC** Australian Labor Party

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## **Chairman's Foreword**

General Purpose Standing Committee No 2 has examined the Budget Estimates for 2002-2003 for the portfolio areas of:

Small Business and Tourism

Mineral Resources and Fisheries

Health

Community Services, Ageing, Disability Services, and Women

I would like to express my appreciation to the relevant Ministers and officers of the departments and organisations who appeared before the Committee, and regret that the Committee had to recall two Ministers and/or their Departments to appear because of the need for more comprehensive answers to those provided on notice.

**The Hon Dr Brian Pezzutti RFD MLC**  
Chairman



# Introduction

## Referral of the 2002-2003 Budget Estimates

On 4 June 2002, 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.<sup>1</sup> Each Committee was required to examine the Budget Estimates for their relevant portfolios and report to the House by Thursday 5 September 2001.<sup>2</sup>

## Examination of the Budget Estimates

General Purpose Standing Committee No 2 examined the Budget Estimates and related documents for its portfolios at a series of public hearings held on the following dates:

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 20 June 2002    | Small Business and Tourism                                 |
| 24 June 2002    | Mineral Resources and Fisheries                            |
| 24 June 2002    | Health   |
| 25 June 2002    | Community Services, Ageing, Disability Services, and Women |
| 14 October 2002 | Mineral Resources and Fisheries (supplementary)            |
| 14 October 2002 | Health (supplementary)                                     |

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

During these hearings, Ministers took a number of questions on notice. In addition the Committee resolved to lodge written questions on notice for all the above portfolio areas. The Committee is pleased to note that answers have been provided to all questions placed on notice up until the supplementary hearings. Copies of the questions and answers can be found at the Committee's Web page at the above address. Appendix 2 contains details of response times for questions placed on notice by the Committee as part of the 2002-2003 Budget Estimates and related documents inquiry.

Relevant minutes of the Committee's proceedings appear at Appendix 3.

<sup>1</sup> Minutes of Proceedings, No 14, 4 June 2002. See Appendix 1 for more information about the General Purpose Standing Committees.

<sup>2</sup> Resolution of 4 June 2002, para 13.

## Chapter 1      **Small Business and Tourism**

The Committee heard from the Hon Sandra Nori, MP, Minister for Small Business and Minister for Tourism, together with Mr L Harris, Director-General and Ms J Ricketts, Director, Small Business Development Division, Department of State and Regional Development, Mr A Thirlwell, Managing Director and Ms P Murphy, Director, Business Services, Tourism New South Wales, at a public hearing on Thursday 20 June 2002.

A list of the topics discussed at the hearing is provided below. For further details on these matters, see the Hansard record for this hearing.

### **Small Business**

- Definition of Small Business used by the Department
- Assistance to women in small business, including the Women in Business Mentor Program
- Programs to assist small business in regional areas
- Effect of payroll tax on small business in New South Wales
- *New South Wales Business Priorities 2003* document released by Australian Business Limited
- Effect of workplace compliance regimes, unfair dismissal laws and government charges on small business
- Stamp duty on private company transfers and insurance premiums
- Proposals to reduce the cost to small business of civil liability insurance
- Business Licence Information Service
- Business development programs for small tourism operators, Leaders in Tourism network groups
- Rental costs for small retail outlets
- Small business assistance for recently arrived people and refugees

## **Tourism**

- Assessment of the effect of the proposed Mogo charcoal smelter on tourist operators in the Eurobodalla area.
- Recently established 'Tourism Sydney' organisation – support offered to operators in western Sydney
- Promotion of nature based tourism in far western New South Wales
- Promotion of farm stay holidays
- Date for release of the Nature Tourism Plan
- Funding for programs to counter negative consumer perceptions arising out of the December 2001/January 2002 bushfires
- Campaigns to promote different Sydney localities – procedure for evaluation
- Total expenditure on marketing in the 2001-2002 financial year
- Impacts of financial difficulties experienced by Hazleton Airlines on regional tourism in New South Wales
- Promotion of smaller regional and rural tourism operations via the Internet.
- Update on status of the boat at Old Sydney Town

Questions were taken on notice at the hearing and answers subsequently received.

## **Chapter 2 Mineral Resources and Fisheries**

The Committee heard from the Hon Eddie Obeid MLC, Minister for Mineral Resources and Minister for Fisheries, together with Mr A Coutts, Director-General, Ms M Campbell, Director, Strategic Planning and Policy and Mr T Galligan, Director, Resource Planning and Development, Department of Mineral Resources, Mr S Dunn, Director and Mr P O'Connor, Deputy Director, Department of Fisheries, at a public hearing on Monday 24 June 2002.

A list of the topics discussed at the hearing is provided below. For further details on these matters, see the Hansard record for this hearing.

### **Mineral Resources**

- Additional funding allocation to the Department
- Relocation of Departmental Staff to Maitland
- Internet Resources
- Implementation of Occupational Health and Safety Legislation by the Department
- Revenue from the sale of Goods and Services
- Investment Income
- Review of the Mining Act
- Ulan Coal Mine
- Community Consultative Committees for mining development
- Staffing arrangements
- Murray Basin
- Social and Environmental impact assessment
- Derelict Mine Rehabilitation
- Great Northern Mine (Anvil Hill)

### **Fisheries**

- Little Manly Point

- Operating expenses
- Staffing arrangements
- Upgrade of computer server systems
- Fish Stocking
- Disaster Management
- Budget Funding Allocation
- Fisheries Management Strategy
- Compliance Staff
- Recreational Fishing areas
- Fishcare Volunteers
- Indigenous Fishing Strategy
- Aboriginal employment strategy
- Oyster Industry

Many questions were taken on notice at the hearing and others were placed on notice subsequently. The Committee subsequently resolved on 28 August 2002 to ask the Minister back to elucidate answers provided to questions taken on notice.

### **Supplementary Hearing**

The Committee subsequently heard from the Hon Eddie Obeid MLC, Minister for Mineral Resources and Minister for Fisheries, together with Mr A Coutts, Director-General, Ms M Campbell, Director, Strategic Planning and Policy and Mr T Galligan, Director, Resource Planning and Development, Department of Mineral Resources, Mr S Dunn, Director and Mr P O'Connor, Deputy Director, Department of Fisheries, at a supplementary public hearing on Monday 14 October 2002.

A list of the topics discussed at the hearing is provided below. For further details on these matters, see the Hansard record for this hearing.

#### **Mineral Resources**

- Overseas and interstate travel by Minister
- Use of media monitoring, legal services and public relations expenditure

- Ministerial staff, office relocation and fit out
- Impact of Department's reservations on declaration of national parks
- rehabilitation of derelict mine sites
- programs to encourage investment in mineral and petroleum exploration
- mine safety reforms

### **Fisheries**

- Buy-back of commercial fishing businesses to create recreational fishing havens
- Aboriginal employment strategy and EEO issues
- Marine Protected Areas program
- Grey Nurse Shark Recovery program
- Draft zoning plans for Lord Howe Island Marine Park
- Nadgee Nature Reserve Marine Park
- Expenditure of retained revenue from recreational fishing licences
- Management of aquatic pests
- Jervis Bay Marine Park
- Aquaculture initiatives
- National recreational fishing survey
- Regional fisheries officers and inspectors
- Revenue, administrative and licensing arrangements for recreational fishing licences
- Penalty infringements and prosecutions

There were some questions taken on notice at the hearing.

## Chapter 3 Health

The Committee heard from the Hon Craig Knowles, MP, Minister for Health, together with the following officers from NSW Health: Mr Robert McGregor, A/Director-General, and Ken Barker, General Manager, Finance and Commercial Services at a public hearing held on Monday 24 June 2002.

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

### **New South Wales Health**

- Central Coast health services
- Cardiac beds at Royal North Shore Hospital
- NSW Health three-year forward budgets
- Metropolitan planning initiative arising from the Greater Metropolitan Transition Taskforce review and the Greater Metropolitan Services Implementation Group
- Ministerial contingency fund, known as L4
- Preparation of regulations pertaining to the identification of MSG in food by restaurants
- Staff shortages
- Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS)
- Tobacco consumption
- Legislation regarding smoke-free environments
- Upgrade of Westmead Hospital campus
- Additional funding for oral health services
- Rural health services
- Western Sydney Health Strategy
- Review of metropolitan hospital emergency departments
- Suicide and homicides by psychiatric patients

- Tender selection process for the replacement of the Ambulance Service's fixed-wing aircraft
- New South Wales Ambulance Service
- Interest free loan to the New South Wales Ambulance Service by NSW Health
- Ambulance response times
- Emergency services funding
- Overseas-trained doctors
- Medical indemnity and United Medical Protection (UMP) and the Government's Health Care Liability Act
- Proposed midwifery services at Katoomba Hospital
- Medical research in New South Wales

There were many questions taken on notice during the hearing. The Committee resolved at the deliberative after the hearing to hold a further hearing.

### **Supplementary Hearing**

The Committee heard from the following officers from NSW Health: Ms Robyn Kruk, Director-General, Mr Ken Barker, General Manager, Finance and Commercial Services, Mr Robert McGregor, Deputy Director-General Operations; Associate Professor Deb Picone, Deputy Director Policy, and Dr Corbett, Director, Health Protection at a supplementary public hearing held on Monday 14 October 2002.

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

- Health impacts of M5 East tunnel
- Hospital waiting lists
- Location of radiotherapy unit on mid North Coast
- Nurse Reconnect Program
- Greater Metropolitan Services Implementation plan
- Rural funding program
- NSW Ambulance Service: costs and creditors

- Area of Need program
- Anti-smoking strategies
- Health impact on sex workers of *Disorderly House Act* amendments
- Nursing services – regional aggregates
- WIN strategy for Western Sydney
- Resource Distribution Formulae and funding transfers

Some questions were taken on notice during the hearing. Answers were not received by the time of the tabling of this report.

## **Chapter 4      Community Services, Ageing, Disability Services and Women**

The Committee heard from the Hon Faye Lo Po', MP, Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services and Minister for Women, together with Ms Margaret Allison, Director General and Mr Robert Griew, Executive Director, Strategic Policy and Planning, Department of Ageing, Disability and Homecare, Ms Carmel Niland, Director General, Department of Community Services, and Ms Robyn Henderson, Director General, Department of Women.

A list of the discussed at the hearing is provided below. For further details on these matters, see the Hansard record for this hearing.

### **Ageing, Disability and Homecare**

- Devolution of large residential centres for people with disability
- Support models for people with high medical needs
- Plans for closure of Mannix Children's Home
- Funding for the Post School Options and Adult Training Learning and Support Program (ATLAS)
- Employment services for people with disability
- Service Access System – number of applications, assessments, eligibility, cost of services and appraisal
- Regulation and monitoring of accommodation services for children with disability
- Funding allocated to the Care for Carers strategy
- Forward planning to address the needs of an ageing population
- Experienced Hands project
- Committee on Ageing
- Funding for advocacy support for people involved in the Group Homes and Devolution projects
- Allocation of attendant care packages
- Boarding House Relocation Program

- Funding for strategies to address issues relating to contact between the criminal justice system and people with intellectual disabilities
- Funding for early intervention services
- High cost interim support arrangements for people with disability
- Contributions to meet the cost of the new SACS Award.

### **Community Services**

- Cost of preparation for Budget Estimates hearings
- Time spent preparing for and monitoring the media
- Caseworker staffing levels
- Attendance of the Director General at Question Time in the Legislative Assembly
- Production of 'Carmel Niland's News'
- Response to recent Ombudsman's report
- Upgrades to the Client Information System and file management
- Performance of the DoCS Helpline
- Training programs in response to the *Crimes Amendment (Child Protection and Physical Maltreatment) Act*
- 'Drivers' of child abuse
- Number of 'unallocated' cases and Priority One policy
- Delay in the proclamation of the provisions of the *Children and Young Persons Care and Protection Act* relating to the Children's Guardian
- Response to the recent Community Services Commission report on Substitute Care
- Commonwealth – State Disability Agreement and the award payments for workers
- Funding for permanency planning measures
- Prevention and early intervention services
- Christmas 2001/2002 bush fires appeal

- Accuracy of DoCS statistics

### **Women**

- Staffing of the Women's Information Referral Service
- Core programs and role of the Department
- Demand for child care facilities in Parliament House
- Impact of the Department.

## **Appendix 1**

# **Establishment, Powers and Portfolios of the General Purpose Standing Committees**

# **Establishment, powers and portfolios of the General Purpose Standing Committees**

## **Establishment of the General Purpose Standing Committees**

The five General Purpose Standing Committees of the Legislative Council were first established in 1997.<sup>3</sup> The committees were reappointed on 13 May 1999, shortly after the commencement of the present Parliament.<sup>4</sup> Since the inception of the General Purpose Standing Committees, the Budget Estimates and related papers have been referred to them for inquiry and report.

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

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

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

## **Powers of the General Purpose Standing Committees**

The General Purpose Standing Committees have power to:

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

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<sup>3</sup> Minutes of Proceedings, No 65, 7 May 1997, p. 677.

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

<sup>5</sup> Resolution of 13 May 1999, para 3.

<sup>6</sup> Resolution of 13 May 1999, para 8.

## **Portfolios**

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

### **General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1**

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

### **General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2**

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

### **General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3**

Police  
Attorney General  
Fair Trading  
Corrective Services  
Juvenile Justice

### **General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4**

Planning, Aboriginal Affairs, Housing  
Transport, Roads  
Gaming and Racing  
Public Works and Services, Sport and Recreation

### **General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5**

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

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<sup>7</sup> Resolution of 4 June 2002

## **Appendix 2**

# **Response Times for Questions on Notice**

## Response time for Questions on Notice

The Committee resolved on Thursday, 20 June 2002 that Ministers be requested to lodge answers to questions on notice within 35 calendar days of the day on which the questions are forwarded to the Minister for the portfolios of Community Services, Ageing, Disability Services, Women and Health, and within 21 days for the portfolios of Small Business, Tourism, Mineral Resources and Fisheries. In each case, the Ministers agreed to the time frame resolved by the Committee. The return date for answers are set out in the table below.

The portfolios that were the subject of supplementary hearings on 14 October were given 7 days to return answers. In view of the very short deadline the Committee subsequently agreed to extend the time by a further 7 days.

| <b>Minister</b>     | <b>Hearing Date</b> | <b>Date Questions Sent</b> | <b>Return Date for Answers</b> | <b>Date Answers Received</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Hon S C Nori MP Hon | 20 June 2002        | 26 June 2002               | 17 July 2002                   | 17 July 2002                 |
| Hon E M Obeid MLC   | 24 June 2002        | 28 June 2002               | 15 August 2002                 | 14 August 2002 <sup>8</sup>  |
| Hon C J Knowles MP  | 24 June 2002        | 28 June 2001               | 2 August 2002                  | 5 August 2002                |
| Faye Lo Po' MP      | 25 June 2001        | 3 July 2001                | 7 August 2002                  | 8 August 2002                |
| Hon E M Obeid MLC   | 14 October 2002     | 15 October 2002            | 30 October 2002                | 30 October 2002              |
| Hon C J Knowles MP  | 14 October 2002     | 15 October 2001            | 30 October 2002                | Yet to be received           |

<sup>8</sup> On the 3 July 2002, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC, Minister for Tourism, Mineral Resources and Fisheries, wrote to the Committee, requesting an extension of the time for lodgement of answers until 15 August 2002.

# **Appendix 3**

## **Minutes of the Proceedings**

# Minutes of the Proceedings

## Minutes No 47

Thursday, 20 June 2002

Jubilee Room, at Parliament House at 5.30pm

### 1. Members Present

The Hon Dr Brian Pezzutti MLC (*Chair*)

The Hon Dr Arthur Chesterfield-Evans (*Deputy Chair*)

The Hon Richard Jones MLC (Corbett)

The Hon Ron Dyer MLC

The Hon Amanda Fazio MLC

The Hon John Jobling MLC (Gay)

The Hon Janelle Saffin MLC (Tsang)

### 2. Substitution Arrangements

The Chair advised that Mr Jobling would be representing Mr Gay, Mr R Jones would be representing Mr Corbett and Ms Saffin would be representing Mr Tsang.

### 3. Correspondence

#### *Received*

The Chair tabled correspondence from Mr Jobling, requesting the presence of Mr Steve Dunn, Director, NSW Fisheries at the Budget Estimates hearing for GPSC No. 2 for Mineral Resources and Fisheries on Monday, 24 June 2002 at 9.30am.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved on the motion of Mr Jobling: That the Committee Chair write to the Minister for Mineral Resources and Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid MLC, requesting him to arrange for Mr Steve Dunn, Director, NSW Fisheries, to attend the budget estimates hearing scheduled for 9.30am Monday 24 June 2002.

### 4. Budget Estimates 2002-2003

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved on the Motion of Mr Dyer that:

1. Members are to lodge written questions on notice relating to the portfolio responsibilities of the Committee with the Committee Clerk by 5.00pm on the second business day after the day on which the relevant hearing takes place.
2. The Committee Clerk is to forward questions on notice to the relevant Minister.
3. In relation to the Small Business, Tourism and Mineral Resources and Fisheries portfolios, Ministers be requested to lodge answers to questions on notice within 21 calendar days of the day on which the questions are forwarded to the Minister by the Committee Clerk.
4. In relation to Community Services, Ageing, Disability Services, Women and Health portfolios, Ministers be requested to lodge answers to questions on notice within 35 calendar days from the day on which the question is forwarded to the Minister by the Committee Clerk.
5. Under section 4 of the *Parliamentary Papers (Supplementary Provisions) Act 1975* and under the authority of the Standing Order 252, the Committee authorises the Clerk of the Committee to publish the answers provided to questions on notice, after these answers have been circulated to Committee Members.

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

The Hon Sandra Nori MP, Minister for Small Business, and Minister for Tourism, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisers:

***Department of State and Regional Development***

Mr Loftus Harris – Director General

Ms Janine Ricketts – Director – Small Business Development Division.

***Tourism New South Wales***

Mr Tony Thirlwell – Managing Director

Ms Pauline Murphy – Director, Business Services

The public and media were admitted.

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

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Small Business, and Tourism open for examination.

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

Examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Small Business, and Tourism concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The Committee deliberated.

Mr Jobling moved: That the Committee hold a supplementary hearing on a date to be determined by the Chair after consulting with Committee members to consider matters relating to the portfolio areas of Small Business and Tourism:

Debate ensued.

The Committee divided:

**Ayes:** Mr Jobling  
Dr Chesterfield-Evans  
Mr Jones  
Dr Pezzutti

**Noes:** Ms Fazio  
Ms Saffin  
Mr Dyer

The question was resolved in the affirmative.

**5. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 7:40pm until Monday, 24 June 2002 at 9.30am.

Tony Davies

**Clerk to the Committee**

**Minutes No 48**

Monday, 24 June 2002

Room 814/815, at Parliament House at 9.15am

**1. Members Present**

The Hon Dr Arthur Chesterfield-Evans (*Deputy Chair*)

The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC (Pezzutti)

The Hon Duncan Gay MLC

The Hon Ron Dyer MLC

The Hon Amanda Fazio MLC

The Hon Janelle Saffin MLC (Tsang)

**2. Apologies**

The Hon Alan Corbett MLC

**3. Substitution Arrangements**

The Chair advised that Ms Gardiner would be representing Dr Pezzutti and Ms Saffin would be representing Mr Tsang.

**4. Budget Estimates 2002-2003**

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

The Hon Eddie Obeid MLC, Minister for Mineral Resources and Fisheries, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisers:

***Department of Mineral Resources***

Mr Alan Coutts – Director General

Ms Margaret Campbell – Director, Strategic Planning and Policy

Mr Tony Galligan – Director, Resource Planning and Development

***NSW Fisheries***

Mr Steve Dunn – Director

Mr Paul O'Connor – Deputy Director

The public and media were admitted.

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

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Mineral Resources and Fisheries open for examination.

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

Examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Mineral Resources and Fisheries concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

**5. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 11:40am until Monday, 24 June 2002 at 1.00pm.

Tony Davies

**Clerk to the Committee**

**Minutes No 49**

Monday 24 June 2002

Jubilee Room, at Parliament House at 12.50pm

**1. Members Present**

The Hon Dr Arthur Chesterfield-Evans (*in the Chair*)

The Hon Ron Dyer MLC

The Hon Don Harwin MLC

The Hon John Hatzistergos MLC (Tsang)

The Hon John Jobling MLC (Pezzutti)

The Hon Ian West MLC (Fazio)

The Hon Dr Peter Wong (Corbett) MLC

**2. Substitution Arrangements**

The Chair advised that Mr Hatzistergos would be representing Mr Tsang, Mr West would be representing Ms Fazio, Mr Jobling would be representing Dr Pezzutti, and that Dr Wong would be representing Mr Corbett.

**3. Questions on notice**

The Chair made a statement to Members regarding previously resolved procedures for Written Questions on Notice.

**4. Budget Estimates 2002-2003**

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

Resolved on the motion of Mr Dyer, that the following allocations of time be adhered to during the hearing: Opposition – 20 minutes, Mr Wong – 10 minutes, Dr Chesterfield-Evans – 10 minutes until the allocated time expires, but that flexibility in the observance of those times would be allowed to permit Government Members to ask questions.

The Hon Craig Knowles MP, Minister for Health, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisers:

**NSW Health**

Mr Robert McGregor, Acting Director-General

Mr Ken Barker, Chief Financial Officer

The public and media were admitted.

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

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

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

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

The Committee deliberated.

Mr Harwin moved: That the Minister for Health and representatives from NSW Health be requested to appear before the Committee at a supplementary hearing at a date to be determined by the Clerk to the Committee in consultation with the Minister's office.

Debate ensued

The Committee divided:

**Ayes:** Dr Chesterfield-Evans  
Mr Harwin  
Mr Jobling

**Noes:** Mr Dyer  
Mr Hatzistergos  
Mr West

There being an equality of votes, the Chair exercised his casting vote with the ayes.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

**5. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 3.00pm until Tuesday 25 June 2002 at 6.00pm.

Rob Stefanic

**Clerk to the Committee**

**Minutes No 50**

Tuesday, 25 June 2002

Room 814/815, at Parliament House at 6.00pm

**1. Members Present**

The Hon Dr Arthur Chesterfield-Evans (*Deputy Chair*)

The Hon Patricia Forsythe MLC (Pezzutti)

The Hon John Ryan MLC (Gay)

The Hon Jan Burnswoods MLC (Dyer)

The Hon Amanda Fazio MLC

The Hon Ian West MLC (Tsang)

The Hon Alan Corbett MLC

**2. Substitution Arrangements**

The Chair advised that Ms Forsythe would be representing Dr Pezzutti, Mr Ryan would be representing Mr Gay, Ms Burnswoods would be representing Mr Dyer and Mr West would be representing Mr Tsang.

**3. Budget Estimates 2002-2003**

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

The Chair made a statement to Members regarding a procedural irregularity that occurred at the Committee's previous meeting.

The Hon Faye Lo Po' MP, Minister for Community Services, Ageing, Disability Services and Women, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisers:

***Department of Ageing Disability Services and Home Care***

Ms Margaret Allison – Director General

Mr Robert Griew – Executive Director, Strategic Policy and Planning

Ms Ethel McAlpine, Executive Director, Operations

Mr John Parisi, Chief Finance Officer

***Department of Community Services***

Ms Carmel Niland – Director General

Ms Kerryn Boland – Deputy Director General

Ms Jillian McCormack, Director, Finance and Assets

Ms Toni Milne, Acting Executive Director, Corporate Strategy and Governance

Mr Philip Wheeler – Executive Director, Business Services and Corporate Communications

***Department for Women***

Ms Robyn Henderson, Director General

The public and media were admitted.

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

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Community Services, Ageing, Disability Services and Women open for examination.

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

Examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Community Services, Ageing, Disability Services and Women concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved on the motion of Ms Fazio: That the Committee's report on Budget Estimates be in the same format as that used last year.

**4. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 8.00pm

Tony Davies

**Clerk to the Committee**

**Minutes No 51**

Wednesday 28 August 2002

Room 1108, at Parliament House at 6.30pm

**1. Members Present**

The Hon Dr Brian Pezzutti RFM MLC (*Chair*)

The Hon Dr Arthur Chesterfield-Evans (*Deputy Chair*)

The Hon Duncan Gay MLC

The Hon Ron Dyer MLC

**2. Apologies**

The Hon Amanda Fazio MLC

The Hon Henry Tsang MLC

The Hon Alan Corbett MLC

**3. Budget Estimates 2002-2003**

The Committee deliberated.

Mr Gay moved that the Minister for Fisheries and Mineral Resources be invited by the Committee to attend a supplementary hearing, in addition to the supplementary hearings for the portfolios of Health and Small Business and Tourism that were the subject of previous resolutions.

Debate ensued.

The Committee divided:

**Ayes:** Mr Gay  
Dr Chesterfield Evans  
Dr Pezzutti

**Noes:** Mr Dyer

Motion was resolved in the affirmative.

Resolved, on the motion of Dr Chesterfield Evans, that the Chair move the following resolution in the House: That the resolution of the House of 4 June 2002 regarding the final reporting date for the 2002-2003 Budget Estimates process be amended to enable General Purpose Standing Committee No 2 to hold supplementary hearings for the portfolios of Fisheries, Mineral Resources and Health; and to report back to the House by no later than Thursday 24 October 2002.

**4. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 6:50 pm

Steven Reynolds

**Clerk to the Committee**

**Minutes No 53**

Monday, 14 October 2002

Room 814/815, at Parliament House at 2:00 pm

**1. Members Present**The Hon Dr Brian Pezzutti MLC (*Chair*)

The Hon Dr Arthur Chesterfield-Evans

The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC (*Gay*)The Hon Richard Jones MLC (*Corbett*)

The Hon Ron Dyer MLC

The Hon Amanda Fazio MLC

The Hon Peter Primrose MLC (*Tsang*)**2. Apologies**

The Hon Alan Corbett MLC

**3. Substitution Arrangements**

The Chair advised that the Opposition Whip had advised him that Ms Gardiner would be representing Mr Gay, the Government Whip had advised that he would be representing Mr Tsang, and Mr Corbett had advised that he would be represented by Mr Jones.

**4. Budget Estimates 2002-2003 – Supplementary hearings**

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

The Hon Eddie Obeid MLC, Minister for Mineral Resources and Fisheries, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisers:

***Department of Mineral Resources***

Mr Alan Coutts – Director General

Ms Margaret Campbell – Director, Strategic Planning and Policy

Mr Tony Galligan – Director, Resource Planning and Development

***NSW Fisheries***

Mr Steve Dunn – Director

Mr Paul O'Connor – Deputy Director

The public and media were admitted.

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

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Mineral Resources and Fisheries open for examination.

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

Examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Mineral Resources and Fisheries concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The Director General of NSW Health, Ms Robyn Kruk, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisers:

**Health**

Mr Robert McGregor – Deputy Director General - Operations  
Associate Professor Deborah Picone – Deputy Director General – Policy  
Mr Ken Barker – Chief Financial Officer  
Dr Ian Corbett– Director, Health Protection

The public and media were admitted.

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

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

The Director General and advisers answered questions by Members of the Committee.

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

The Chair tabled supplementary answers received from the Hon Sandra Nori MP, Minister for Small Business and Tourism.

**5. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 5:05 pm until Wednesday 23 October 2002 at 1.00pm.

Steven Reynolds  
**Clerk to the Committee**

**Minutes No 54**

Wednesday, 23 October 2002

Room 1108, at Parliament House at 1:05 pm

**1. Members Present**The Hon Dr Brian Pezzutti MLC (*Chair*)

The Hon Alan Corbett MLC

The Hon Ron Dyer MLC

The Hon Henry Tsang MLC

Apologies

The Hon Duncan Gay MLC

The Hon Dr Arthur Chesterfield-Evans MLC

The Hon Amanda Fazio MLC

**2. Confirmation of Minutes**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Dyer, that minutes number 51 remove the reference to Small Business and Tourism being recalled.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Dyer, that minutes numbers 47, 48, 49, 50, 51 (as amended) and 53 be confirmed.

**3. Budget Estimates 2002-2003 – Chair’s Draft Report**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Dyer, that as a result of the supplementary answers received, the Committee would not recall the Hon Sandra Nori MP, Minister for Small Business and Tourism.

The Chair indicated that his Chair’s forward would amend the final sentence to read:

I would like to express my appreciation to the relevant Ministers and officers of the departments and organisations who appeared before the Committee, and regret that the Committee had to recall two Ministers and/or their Departments to appear because of the need for more comprehensive answers to those provided on notice.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Dyer, that the following amendments suggested by the Chair be made to the Chair’s Draft report:

That after the dot points regarding the first hearing for the Minerals and Fisheries portfolio, the following sentences be added:

Many questions were taken on notice at the hearing and others were placed on notice subsequently. The Committee subsequently resolved on 28 August 2002 to ask the Minister back to elucidate answers provided to questions taken on notice.

That a subheading “Supplementary Hearing” then be added.

That after the dot points regarding the first hearing for the Health portfolio, the following sentences be added:

Many questions were taken on notice at the hearing. The Committee resolved at the deliberative after the hearing to hold a further hearing.

That a subheading “Supplementary Hearing” then be added.

That Appendix Three include details of response times by the two portfolios for which supplementary hearings were held.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Dyer, that the report be adopted as a report of the Committee.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Dyer, that the report be signed by the Chair and presented to the House in accordance with the resolution establishing the committee of 13 May 1999.

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 report.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Corbett, that the Chair be authorised to move a motion in the House for an extension of the reporting date until 31 October 2002 so as to enable answers to questions taken on notice on 14 October 2002 to be received by the Committee.

**4. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 1:30 pm sine die.

Steven Reynolds

**Clerk to the Committee**