



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 6

Budget Estimates 2015-2016



Report 2

November 2015

6

www.parliament.nsw.gov.au

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6

Budget Estimates 2015-2016

Ordered to be printed 17 November 2015

New South Wales Parliamentary Library cataloguing-in-publication data:

New South Wales. Parliament. Legislative Council. General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6

Budget estimates 2015-2016 / General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6 [Sydney, N.S.W.] : the Committee, 2015. [viii, 20] pages ; 30 cm. (Report no. 2 / General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6) "November 2015"

Chair: Hon. Paul Green, MLC.

ISBN 9781920788131

1. New South Wales. Parliament. Legislative Council. General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1—Appropriations and expenditures.
- I. Green, Paul.
- II. Title.
- III. Series: New South Wales. Parliament. Legislative Council. General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6. Report ; no. 2

328.94407 (DDC22)

How to contact the committee

Members of the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6 can be contacted through the Committee Secretariat. Written correspondence and enquiries should be directed to:

The Director

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6

Legislative Council

Parliament House, Macquarie Street

Sydney New South Wales 2000

Internet www.parliament.nsw.gov.au

Email budgetestimates@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Telephone 02 9230 3081

Facsimile 02 9230 2981

Terms of reference

1. That upon tabling, the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2015 - 2016 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 initial hearings be scheduled as follows:

Day One: Monday 31 August 2015

GPSC 2	Family and Community Services, Social Housing	9.00 am – 12.00 pm
GPSC 2	Roads, Maritime and Freight	2.00 pm – 6.00 pm
GPSC 3	Early Childhood Education, Aboriginal Affairs	9.00 am – 11.00 am
GPSC 3	Education	2.00 pm – 6.00 pm

Day Two: Tuesday 1 September 2015

GPSC 2	Ageing, Disability Services, Multiculturalism	9.00 am – 12.00 pm
GPSC 2	Transport and Infrastructure	2.00 pm – 6.00 pm
GPSC 3	Mental Health, Medical Research, Women, Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault	9.00 am – 1.00 pm
GPSC 3	Health	2.00 pm – 6.00 pm

Day Three: Wednesday 2 September 2015

GPSC 4	Trade, Tourism and Major Events, Sport	9.00 am – 12.00 pm
GPSC 4	Planning	2.00 pm – 6.00 pm
GPSC 1	Finance, Services and Property	9.00 am – 12.00 pm
GPSC 1	The Legislature	12.15 pm – 1.00 pm
GPSC 5	Industry, Resources and Energy	2.00 pm – 5.00 pm

Day Four: Thursday 3 September 2015

GPSC 4	Justice and Police, Arts, Racing	9.00 am – 1.00 pm
GPSC 4	Attorney General	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
GPSC 1	Treasury, Industrial Relations	9.00 am – 1.00 pm
GPSC 1	Premier, Western Sydney	2.00 pm – 6.00 pm
GPSC 6	Innovation and Better Regulation	4.15 pm – 6.00 pm

Day Five: Friday 4 September 2015

GPSC 5	Primary Industries, Lands and Water	9.00 am – 1.00 pm
GPSC 5	Environment, Heritage	2.00 pm – 5.00 pm
GPSC 6	Local Government	9.00 am – 11.00 am
GPSC 6	Regional Development, Skills, Small Business	11.15 am – 1.00 pm
GPSC 6	Corrections, Emergency Services, Veterans Affairs	2.00 pm – 5.00 pm

3. That supplementary hearings be scheduled during the week of 6 to 9 October 2015.

4. That each scheduled day for the initial round of hearings will begin at 9.00 a.m. and conclude by 6.00 p.m.

5. That the committees must hear evidence in public.

6. That 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.
7. That Ministers may not make an opening statement before the committee commences questions.
8. That the committees are to present a final report to the House by 18 December 2015.
9. That members may lodge supplementary questions with the committee clerk by 5.00 p.m., within two days, excluding Saturday and Sunday, following the hearing.
10. That answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions be published, except those answers for which confidentiality is requested, after these answers have been circulated to committee members.

Committee membership

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6

The Hon Paul Green MLC	Christian Democratic Party	<i>Chair</i>
The Hon Lou Amato MLC	Liberal Party	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
The Hon Catherine Cusack MLC	Liberal Party	
The Hon Scott Farlow MLC	Liberal Party	
The Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Mr David Shoebridge MLC	The Greens	
The Hon Ernest Wong MLC	Australian Labor Party	

Non-substantive members who attended the hearings

The Hon Robert Borsak MLC	Shooters and Fishers Party	
The Hon Sophie Cotsis MLC	Australian Labor Party	
The Hon Greg Donnelly MLC	Australian Labor Party	
The Hon Ben Franklin MLC	The Nationals	
Dr John Kaye MLC	The Greens	
The Hon Trevor Khan MLC	The Nationals	
The Hon Shayne Mallard MLC	Liberal Party	
The Hon Greg Pearce MLC	Liberal Party	
The Hon Peter Primrose MLC	Australian Labor Party	

Table of contents

	Chair's foreword	viii
Chapter 1	Introduction	1
	Referral of the 2015-2016 Budget Estimates	1
	Hearings	1
	Transcripts	1
	Questions on notice	1
Chapter 2	Issues raised during the hearing	3
	Innovation and Better Regulation	3
	Local Government	3
	Regional Development, Skills, Small Business	4
	Corrections, Emergency Services, Veterans Affairs	4
Appendix 1	Witnesses at hearings	7
Appendix 2	Tabled documents	9
Appendix 3	Minutes	10

Chair's foreword

I am pleased to present this report on the Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2015-2016. This annual inquiry into the Budget Estimates ensures parliamentary oversight of the Budget, and provides an important mechanism for the accountability of the executive government to the Council.

The inquiry consisted of four hearings to examine the following portfolios:

- Innovation and Better Regulation
- Local Government
- Regional Development, Skills, Small Business
- Corrections, Emergency Services, Veterans Affairs.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank the Ministers and their officers who assisted the committee during this important inquiry. I am grateful to my fellow committee members and the secretariat staff for their contributions to the inquiry process.



Hon Paul Green MLC

Chair

Chapter 1 Introduction

Referral of the 2015-2016 Budget Estimates

- 1.1 On 24 June 2015, the Legislative Council resolved that ‘the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2015-2016 presenting the amounts to be appropriated from the Consolidated Fund be referred to the General Purpose Standing Committees for inquiry and report’.¹ The resolution (hereafter referred to as the Budget Estimates resolution) requires each committee to examine the Budget Estimates for the relevant portfolios and report to the House by 18 December 2015.²
- 1.2 The Budget Estimates resolution further stipulated that the initial hearings will be held in the week commencing 31 August 2015 and the initial round of supplementary hearings be scheduled during the week of 6-9 October 2015.³

Hearings

- 1.3 The committee held four public hearings as follows:
- Thursday 3 September 2015 – Innovation and Better Regulation
 - Friday 4 September 2015 – Local Government
 - Friday 4 September 2015 – Regional Development, Skills, Small Business
 - Friday 4 September 2015 – Corrections, Emergency Services, Veterans Affairs.
- 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: http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc6?open&refnavid=LC5_2

Questions on notice

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

¹ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 24 June 2015, pp 230 - 231.

² *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 24 June 2015, pp 230 - 231.

³ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 24 June 2015, pp 230 - 231.

Chapter 2 Issues raised during the hearing

This chapter provides a brief summary of the key issues raised during the hearings.

Innovation and Better Regulation

2.1 A hearing examining the portfolio of Innovation and Better Regulation was held on Thursday 3 September 2015. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of the Innovation and Better Regulation portfolio:

- Administration of the *Biofuels Act 2007*
- Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal review of the supply and demand of ethanol in New South Wales
- Online dating fraud
- Free range eggs
- Funeral plan fraud in Aboriginal communities
- Reducing red tape for small businesses
- Public awareness of building standards
- Faulty USB phone chargers, power boards and travel adaptors.

Local Government

2.2 A hearing examining the portfolio of Local Government was held on Friday 4 September 2015. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of the Local Government portfolio:

- Fit for the Future, including the process following the handing down of IPART's report
- Cost of the Government's advertising campaign for local government reform
- Disclosure of councillors' pecuniary interests and the scale of usage of the exemption pursuant to section 451 (4) the *Local Government Act 1993*
- Councillor misconduct, including penalties for a councillor not making a full disclosure of election funding
- 2014 amendments to City of Sydney Act
- Election of mayors
- Joint Organisations in the Sydney region and proposals to merge councils in Sydney

- Cost shifting from the State and Federal Government to local councils and Financial Assistance Grants.

Regional Development, Skills, Small Business

2.3 A hearing examining the portfolios of Regional Development, Skills, Small Business was held on Friday 4 September 2015. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of the Regional Development, Skills, Small Business portfolios:

- Decline in TAFE enrolments and courses offered by TAFE
- Roll-out of TAFE IT systems
- TAFE class sizes and course completion rates
- Planned TAFE campus closures and asset reinvestment
- Eligibility for government-subsidised courses under the Smart and Skilled reforms
- Development of skills for apprentices in regional areas
- Strategies to secure regional jobs
- Abolition of regional ministers' portfolios and replacement with regional parliamentary secretaries.

Corrections, Emergency Services, Veterans Affairs

2.4 A hearing examining the portfolios of Corrections, Emergency Services, Veterans Affairs was held on Friday 4 September 2015. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of the Corrections, Emergency Services, Veterans Affairs portfolios:

- The recent escape of a prisoner from Goulburn jail
- Contraband items entering prisons
- The growth of the inmate population in New South Wales and prisoner accommodation arrangements
- Implementation of a smoking ban throughout New South Wales prisons
- Impact of new laws to facilitate landholder vegetation management for bushfire preparations, and operation of clearing entitlement areas
- Number of corrections officers employed by Corrective Services NSW
- Procedures for responding to drones in correctional facility airspace

- Over-representation of Aboriginal juveniles in correctional facilities, and access to education courses in Aboriginal history and culture for Aboriginal prisoners
- TAFE admissibility requirements for prisoners
- Regional emergency management plans
- Lease of Rural Fire Service headquarters
- Expenditure on legal fees and investigations relating to bullying and harassment in the Rural Fire Service
- Support and employment programs for veterans.

Appendix 1 Witnesses at hearings

Innovation and Better Regulation – Thursday 3 September 2015

Name	Position and Organisation
The Hon Victor Dominello MP	Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation
Mr Rodney Stowe	Commissioner, NSW Fair Trading
Mr Martin Hoffman	Secretary, Department of Finance, Services and Innovation
Mr William Murphy	Deputy Secretary, Department of Finance, Services and Innovation

Local Government – Friday 4 September 2015

Name	Position and Organisation
The Hon Paul Toole MP	Minister for Local Government
Ms Marcia Doheny	Chief Executive, Office of Local Government
Mr Stephen Orr	Deputy Chief Executive, Office of Local Government

Regional Development, Skills, Small Business – Friday 3 September 2015

Name	Position and Organisation
The Hon John Barilaro MP	Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business
Mr Simon Smith	Secretary, Department of Industry
Ms Pam Christie	Managing Director, TAFE NSW
Mr David Collins	General Manager, State Training Services
Ms Robyn Hobbs	NSW Small Business Commissioner

Corrections, Emergency Services, Veterans Affairs – Friday 3 September 2015

Name	Position and Organisation
The Hon David Elliott MP	Minister for Corrections, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Veterans Affairs
Mr Andrew Cappie-Wood	Secretary, Department of Justice
Mr Peter Severin	Commissioner, Corrective Services NSW
Ms Denise Hanley	Acting Chief Executive, Juvenile Justice NSW
Mr Feargus O'Connor	Acting Deputy Secretary, Department of Justice
Mr Shane Fitzsimmons	Commissioner, NSW Rural Fire Service
Mr Adam Dent	Commissioner, NSW State Emergency Service
Mr Greg Mullins	Commissioner, Fire and Rescue NSW
Ms Caroline Mackaness	Project Director, Veterans Affairs, Department of Premier and Cabinet
Mr Rob Rogers	Deputy Commissioner, NSW Rural Fire Service

Appendix 2 Tabled documents

Friday 4 September 2015

Corrections, Emergency Services, Veterans Affairs

- 1 A collection of media reports on issues related to corrective services, tabled by the Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC.
- 2 A document entitled '*The 2015 NSW prison population forecast*', Issue paper no. 105, April 2015, tabled by the Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC.
- 3 A document entitled *Check if you're in a 10/50 area*, tabled by the Hon David Shoebridge MLC.

Appendix 3 Minutes

Minutes no. 6

Monday 10 August 2015

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, 9.36 am

1. Members present

Mr Green, Chair

Mr Amato, Deputy Chair

Ms Cotsis (participating member, arrived 6.05 pm)

Ms Cusack

Mr Franklin

Mr Primrose

Mr Shoebridge

Mr Wong (arrived 9.45 am)

Mr Borsak (participating member)

2. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Amato: That draft minutes no. 5 be confirmed.

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received:

- ***
- ***
- 28 July 2015 Email from Ms Laura Clarke, Office of Hon John Barilaro MP, Minister for Regional Development, Skills, Small Business, forwarding list of witnesses to accompany the Minister to the Budget Estimates hearing on 4 September 2015
- 30 July 2015 Email from Ms Katrina Carlon, Office of Hon Paul Toole MP, Minister for Local Government, forwarding list of witnesses accompany the Minister to the Budget Estimates hearing on 4 September 2015
- 31 July 2015 Email from Ms Sara Potts, Office of Hon David Elliott MP, Minister for Corrections, Emergency Services, Veterans Affairs, forwarding list of witnesses to accompany the Minister to the Budget Estimates hearing on 4 September 2015
- 31 July 2015 Email from Mr Tom Green, Office of Hon Victor Dominello MP, Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation, forwarding list of witnesses to accompany the Minister to the Budget Estimates hearing on 3 September 2015.

Sent:

- 24 July 2014 – Letter from Committee Director to Hon Victor Dominello MP, Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation, inviting the Minister to the Budget Estimates 2015-2016 hearings
- 24 July 2014 – Letter from Committee Director to Hon Paul Toole MP, Minister for Local Government, inviting the Minister to the Budget Estimates 2015-2016 hearings
- 24 July 2014 – Letter from Committee Director to Hon John Barilaro MP, Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Skills and Minister for Small Business, inviting the Minister to the Budget Estimates 2015-2016 hearings
- 24 July 2014 – Letter from Committee Director to Hon David Elliott MP, Minister for Corrections, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Veterans Affairs, inviting the Minister to the Budget Estimates 2015-2016 hearings.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2015-2016 – procedural resolutions

4.1 Allocation of question time

The committee noted that under the resolution establishing General Purpose Standing Committees, the sequence of questions to be asked at hearings is to alternate between opposition, crossbench and government members, with equal time allocated to each, unless the committee decides otherwise.

4.2 Order for examination of portfolios

The committee noted its intention to examine all portfolios concurrently.

4.3 Witnesses

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Shoebridge: That the secretariat circulate a list of witnesses who appeared at last year's Budget Estimates hearings, and that members advise of any requests for additional witnesses by 5.00 pm Tuesday, 11 August 2015.

5. ***

6. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 7.10 pm, until Monday 17 August 2015, 7.30 am.

John Miller

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes no. 11

Thursday 3 September 2015

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 4.00 pm

1. Members present

Mr Green, *Chair*

Mr Amato, *Deputy Chair*

Ms Cusack

Mr Mallard (substituting for Mr Farlow)

Mr Mookhey

Mr Wong

Dr Kaye (participating) (from 4.37 pm)

2. Apologies

Mr Shoebridge

3. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Amato: That draft minutes no. 6 be confirmed.

4. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received:

- 18 August 2015 – Email from Ms Sarah Potts, Office of Hon David Elliott MP, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Veterans Affairs, forwarding an updated list of witnesses appearing with the Minister at the hearing on 4 September 2015.

- 19 August 2015 – Email from Ms Sarah Potts, Office of Hon David Elliott MP, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Veterans Affairs, confirming availability of witness requested by the committee
- 31 August 2015 – Email from Tom Green, Office of Hon Victor Dominello MP, Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation, providing revised witness list.

Sent:

- 14 August 2015 – Letter from Committee Director to Hon David Elliott MP Minister for Corrections, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Veterans Affairs, requesting additional witness to Budget Estimates hearing on 4 September 2015.

5. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2015-2016**5.1 Government questions**

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Cusack: That with no questions asked by government members:

- on Thursday 3 September 2015 the portfolio of Innovation and Better Regulation be examined from 4.15 pm until 5.25 pm
- on Friday 4 September 2015 the portfolio of Local Government be examined from 9.00 am until 10.20 am
- on Friday 4 September 2015 the portfolios of Regional Development, Skills, Small Business be examined from 11.15 am until 12.25 pm
- on Friday 4 September 2015 the portfolios of Corrections, Emergency Services, Veterans Affairs be examined from 2.00 pm until 4.00 pm.

5.2 UTS journalism students

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Mallard: That the undergraduate journalism students from UTS be permitted to film and record the committee's proceedings for Budget Estimates 2015-16, provided that each student signs an undertaking to abide by the requirements of the Broadcasting Resolution.

5.3 Public hearing: Budget Estimates 2015-2016 – Innovation and Better Regulation

Minister Dominello, departmental witnesses, the public and media were admitted.

The chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters. The chair noted that members of Parliament swear an oath to their office, and therefore do not need to be sworn prior to giving evidence before a committee.

The following departmental witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Mr Martin Hoffman, Secretary, Department of Finance, Services and Innovation
- Mr William Murphy, Deputy Secretary, Department of Finance, Services and Innovation
- Mr Rodney Stowe, NSW Fair Trading Commissioner

The chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio of Innovation and Better Regulation open for examination.

The Minister and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

The evidence concluded and the Minister and departmental witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 5.33 pm.

The public and media withdrew.

5.4 Supplementary hearings

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Cusack: That the committee hold a further meeting to deliberate on whether to hold supplementary hearings for the portfolio of Innovation and Better Regulation on a date to be determined following receipt of answers to questions on notice.

6. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5:35 pm, until 8.45 am, Friday 4 September 2015.

Samuel Griffith
Clerk to the Committee

Minutes no. 12

Friday 4 September 2015

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 8.49 am

1. Members present

Mr Green, *Chair*

Mr Amato, *Deputy Chair*

Ms Cusack

Mr Farlow

Mr Primrose (substituting for Mr Mookhey)

Mr Shoebridge

Mr Wong (from 9.08 am)

2. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2015-2016

2.1 Public hearing: Budget Estimates 2015-2016 – Local Government

Minister Toole, departmental witnesses, the public and media were admitted.

The chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters. The chair noted that members of Parliament swear an oath to their office, and therefore do not need to be sworn prior to giving evidence before a committee.

The following departmental witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Ms Marcia Doheny, Chief Executive, Office of Local Government
- Mr Steve Orr, Deputy Chief Executive, Office of Local Government

The chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio of Local Government open for examination.

The Minister and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

Mr Wong joined the meeting.

The evidence concluded and the Minister and departmental witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 10.20 am.

The public and media withdrew.

3. **Adjournment**

The committee adjourned at 10.20 am until 11.00 am, Friday 4 September 2015.

John Miller

Clerk to the Committee

Minutes no. 13

Friday 4 September 2015

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 11.15 am

1. **Members present**

Mr Green, *Chair*

Mr Amato, *Deputy Chair*

Ms Cusack

Mr Donnelly (substituting for Mr Wong from 12.26 pm)

Mr Farlow

Dr Kaye (substituting for Mr Shoebridge)

Mr Mookhey

Mr Wong (until 12.26 pm)

Mr Khan (participating) (until 12.26 pm)

2. **Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2015-2016**

2.1 Public hearing: Budget Estimates 2015-2016 – Regional Development, Skills, Small Business

Minister Barilaro, departmental witnesses, the public and media were admitted.

The chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters. The chair noted that members of Parliament swear an oath to their office, and therefore do not need to be sworn prior to giving evidence before a committee.

The following departmental witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Mr Simon Smith, Secretary, Department of Industry
- Ms Pam Christie, Managing Director, TAFE NSW
- Mr David Colins, General Manager, State Training Services
- Ms Robyn Hobbs, NSW Small Business Commissioner

The chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Regional Development, Skills, Small Business open for examination.

The Minister and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

The evidence concluded and the Minister and departmental witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 12.26 pm.

The public and media withdrew.

Mr Khan and Mr Wong left the meeting

2.2 ***

3. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 12.36 pm, until 1.45 pm, Friday 4 September 2015.

Sharon Ohnesorge
Clerk to the Committee

Minutes no. 14

Friday 4 September 2015

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 1.57 pm

1. Members present

Mr Green, *Chair*

Mr Amato, *Deputy Chair*

Ms Cusack

Mr Farlow

Mr Mookhey

Mr Shoebridge

Mr Wong

Mr Donnelly (participating)

2. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2015-2016

2.1 Public hearing: Budget Estimates 2015-2016 – Corrections, Emergency Services, Veterans Affairs

Minister Elliott, departmental witnesses, the public and media were admitted.

The chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters. The chair noted that members of Parliament swear an oath to their office, and therefore do not need to be sworn prior to giving evidence before a committee.

The following departmental witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Mr Andrew Cappie-Wood, Secretary, Department of Justice NSW
- Mr Peter Severin, Commissioner, Corrective Services NSW
- Ms Denise Hanley, Acting Chief Executive, Juvenile Justice NSW
- Mr Feargus O'Connor, Acting Deputy Secretary, Department of Justice
- Mr Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM, Commissioner, NSW Rural Fire Service
- Mr Adam Dent, Commissioner, NSW State Emergency Services
- Mr Greg Mullins, Commissioner, Fire & Rescue NSW
- Ms Caroline Mackaness, Director, Veterans Affairs, Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Deputy Commissioner Rob Rogers, NSW Rural Fire Service.

The chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Corrections, Emergency Services, Veterans Affairs open for examination.

The Minister and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

Mr Mookhey tendered the following documents:

- A collection of media reports on issues related to corrective services, in a total of eleven page.
- Document entitled *The 2015 NSW prison population forecast*, Issue paper no. 105, April 2015.

Mr Shoebridge tendered a document entitled *Check if you're in a 10/50 area*.

The evidence concluded and the Minister and departmental witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 4.02 pm.

The public and media withdrew.

2.2 Supplementary hearings

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Shoebridge: That the committee hold a further meeting to deliberate on whether to hold supplementary hearings for the portfolios of Local Government, Regional Development, Skills, Small Business, Corrections, Emergency Services and Veterans Affairs on a date to be determined following receipt of answers to questions on notice.

2.3 Tended documents

Resolved, on the motion of Mookhey: That the committee accept and publish the following documents tendered during the Corrections, Emergency Services, Veterans Affairs hearing held on Friday 4 September 2015:

- A collection of media reports on issues related to corrective services, tendered by Mr Mookhey.
- A document entitled *'The 2015 NSW prison population forecast'*, Issue paper no. 105, April 2015, tendered by Mr Mookhey.
- A document entitled *Check if you're in a 10/50 area*, tendered by Mr Shoebridge.

3. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 4.05 pm, until Friday 11 September 2015.

Jenelle Moore
Clerk to the Committee

Minutes no. 20

Thursday 1 October 2015

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6

Room 1136, Parliament House, Sydney, at 11.01 am

1. Members present

Mr Green, *Chair*

Mr Amato, *Deputy Chair* (by teleconference)

Mr Farlow

Mr Mookhey

Mr Pearce (substituting for Ms Cusack)

2. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Farlow: That draft minutes nos. 11, 12, 13 and 14 be confirmed.

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received:

- 29 September 2015 – Letter from Hon Victor Dominello MP, Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation providing answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions for the portfolio of Innovation and Better Regulation.
- 30 September 2015 – Letter from Hon Paul Toole MP, Minister for Local Government, providing answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions for the portfolio of Local Government.
- 30 September 2015 – Letter from Hon John Barilaro MP, Minister for Regional Development, Skills, Small Business providing answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions for the portfolios of Regional Development, Skills, Small Business.
- 30 September 2015 – Letter from Hon David Elliott MP, Minister for Corrections, Emergency Services, Veterans Affairs providing answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions for the portfolios of Corrections, Emergency Services, Veterans Affairs.

Sent:

- 8 September 2015 – Letter from Committee Director to Hon Victor Dominello MP, Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation, attaching transcript of evidence with questions on notice highlighted, supplementary questions and instructions on how to correct the transcript and return answers to questions.
- 9 September 2015 – Letter from Committee Director to Hon Paul Toole MP, Minister for Local Government, attaching transcript of evidence with questions on notice highlighted, supplementary questions and instructions on how to correct the transcript and return answers to questions.
- 9 September 2015 – Letter from Committee Director to Hon John Barilaro MP, Minister for Regional Development, Skills, Small Business, attaching transcript of evidence with questions on notice highlighted, supplementary questions and instructions on how to correct the transcript and return answers to questions.
- 9 September 2015 – Letter from Committee Director to Hon David Elliott MP, Minister for Corrections, Emergency Services, Veterans Affairs, attaching transcript of evidence with questions on notice highlighted, supplementary questions and instructions on how to correct the transcript and return answers to questions.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2015-2016**4.1 Supplementary hearings**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Farlow: That the committee hold no further hearings to consider matters relating to the following portfolios:

- Innovation and Better Regulation

- Local Government
- Regional Development
- Skills
- Small Business
- Corrections
- Emergency Services
- Veterans Affairs.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 11.03 am *sine die*.

Madeleine Foley

Clerk to the Committee

Draft minutes no. 24

Monday 9 November 2015

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6

Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney at 2.30 pm

1. Members present

Mr Green, *Chair*

Ms Cusack

Mr Donnelly

Mr Farlow

Dr Kaye

Mr Mookhey

2. Apologies

Mr Amato, *Deputy Chair*

3. ***

4. ***

5. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2015-2016 – Report deliberative

5.1 Consideration of Chair's draft report – Budget Estimates 2015-2016

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Farlow:

- That the draft report be the report of the committee and that the committee present the report to the House;
- That the transcripts of evidence, tabled documents, answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions, and correspondence relating to the inquiry be tabled in the House with the report;
- That upon tabling, all unpublished transcripts of evidence, tabled documents, answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions, and correspondence relating to the inquiry be published by the committee, except for those documents kept confidential by resolution of the committee;
- That the committee secretariat correct any typographical, grammatical and formatting errors prior to tabling;

- That dissenting statements be provided to the secretariat within 24 hours after receipt of the draft minutes of the meeting;
- That the report be tabled on Tuesday, 17 November 2015.

6. ***

7. **Adjournment**

The committee adjourned at 5.06 pm, until 9.30 am, Thursday 10 December 2015 at Parliament House, Sydney (report deliberative).

Sharon Ohnesorge
Clerk to the Committee

