

General Purpose Standing Committee No.5

# **Budget Estimates 2004-2005**

Ordered to be printed according to the Resolution of the House

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## Terms of Reference

1. That the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2004-2005 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 2 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 Leader of the Government is to provide to each Committee, by 6 July 2004, a schedule outlining the attendance of relevant ministers to appear before each committee, for the committee's consideration.
11. The committees may hold supplementary hearings as required.
12. The committees present a final report to the House by the last sitting day of the second sitting week in 2005—put and passed.

*(Minutes of proceedings No 61 pages 886-888, 23 June 2004)*

## Committee Membership

<b>Mr Ian Cohen MLC</b>	The Greens	<i>Chair</i>
<b>Hon Kayee Griffin MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
<b>Hon Peter Primrose MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party	
<b>Hon Tony Catanzariti MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party	
<b>Hon Don Harwin MLC</b>	Liberal Party	
<b>Hon Rick Colless MLC</b>	The Nationals	
<b>Ms Sylvia Hale MLC</b>	The Greens	

## Other Members who attended the hearings

<b>Hon Eric Roozendaal MLC</b>	Australia Labor Party
<b>Hon Duncan Gay MLC</b>	The Nationals
<b>Hon Henry Tsang MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party
<b>Hon Amanda Fazio MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party
<b>Hon Ian West MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party
<b>Hon Charlie Lynn MLC</b>	Liberal Party
<b>Ms Jan Burnswoods MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party
<b>Hon David Clarke MLC</b>	Liberal Party
<b>Hon Robyn Parker MLC</b>	Liberal Party

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## **Chair's Foreword**

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5 has examined the Budget Estimates for 2004-2005 for the portfolio areas of:

- Regional Development, Illawarra, Small Business
- Primary Industries
- Mineral Resources
- Rural Affairs, Local Government, Emergency Services, Lands
- Environment

The Committee expresses its appreciation to the Ministers and officers of the departments and organisations who appeared before it.

**Ian Cohen MLC**  
**Committee Chair**



# Chapter 1 Introduction

## Examination of budget estimates

- 1.1 General Purpose Standing Committee No 5 examined the Budget Estimates and related documents for its portfolios at a series of public hearings held on the following dates:
- 14 September 2004 Regional Development, Illawarra, Small Business
  - 15 September 2004 Primary Industries
  - 16 September 2004 Mineral Resources
  - 16 September 2004 Rural Affairs, Local Government, Emergency Services, Lands
  - 17 September 2004 Environment
- 1.2 Supplementary hearings were held for the Environment portfolio (15 February 2005), Primary Industries (25 February 2005) and Mineral Resources (15 February 2005 and 30 March 2005).
- 1.3 This report outlines the administrative details of the budget estimates hearing process and a brief summary of some of the key issues raised. The full transcript of evidence taken at these hearings can be found at the Committee's Web page accessible at: [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/budgetestimates](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/budgetestimates). Hard copies of the transcripts can be obtained by contacting the General Purpose Standing Committee Secretariat on 02 9230 3544.
- 1.4 During these hearings, Ministers took a number of questions on notice. Copies of the questions and answers can be found on the web page, or obtained from the Secretariat.
- 1.5 In addition the Committee lodged written questions on notice for all the portfolio areas by placing questions on the notice paper with the Clerks at the Table on days that the House sits.

## Portfolios

- Regional Development
- Illawarra
- Small Business
- Primary Industries
- Mineral Resources
- Rural Affairs
- Local Government
- Emergency Services
- Lands
- Environment

## Chapter 2 Public hearings – by portfolio

The key topics discussed at the hearing are provided below. For further details on these, and other matters, see the Hansard record of the hearing, available on the Committee's web page accessible via the Parliament's website at [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/budgetestimates](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/budgetestimates)

### Regional Development, Illawarra, Small Business

2.1 On 14 September 2004 the Committee conducted public hearings into the portfolios of Regional Development, Illawarra, Small Business.

#### Regional Development

2.2 Amongst the issues discussed, assistance to businesses in drought-affected areas was of particular focus as well as government expenditure on regional projects. Other key issues discussed included:

- impact of restructuring of government agencies
- second Airport at Wilton
- funding to Chambers of Commerce throughout NSW
- Main Street Small Towns program and Towns and Villages Futures program
- funding of private industries, local government and community organisations in the Northern Region.

#### Illawarra

2.3 Discussions during the public hearing centred on the provision of health and emergency medical services in the Wollongong area. Other issues discussed included:

- expansion of port activities in Port Kembla
- high speed rail link between Sydney and Wollongong
- Dombarton/Maldon rail link.

#### Small Business

2.4 The key issue discussed during the public hearing was funding for Business Enterprise Centres. Other issues discussed included:

- closure of Orange Grove factory retail outlet
- payroll tax relief
- incentives for small businesses to relocate to regional centres

- small business development in regional areas.

## **Primary Industries**

**2.5** On 15 September 2004 the Committee conducted public hearings into the portfolio of Primary Industries.

**2.6** A key matter discussed during the hearing was the impact of budget cuts and the departmental restructure on staffing and various research programs and facilities. Issues associated with genetically modified crop trials were also a focus. Other issues discussed included:

- appointment of the Director General
- timber assets
- organic farming
- shooters in State forests
- the Game Council and game licences
- wild fowl hunting and culling
- caulpera eradication programs
- Palmer report and illegal fishing
- restocking of native and non native fish
- fishing licence fees
- shark-netting program
- DPI conservation activities.

### ***Supplementary hearing***

**2.7** On 25 February 2005 a supplementary hearing was conducted. There were numerous issues discussed, including:

- inspections into logging operations
- marine parks
- drought assistance
- National Livestock Identification Scheme
- fisheries management strategies
- grey nurse shark protection
- fisheries conservation managers
- Catchment Management Authorities
- staffing issues

- purchase of underwater cameras
- fishing licenses
- Indigenous fisheries strategy.

## **Mineral Resources**

**2.8** On 16 September 2004 the Committee conducted public hearings into the Mineral Resources portfolio.

**2.9** Key issues discussed during the hearing included the departmental restructure and decentralisation and the environmental impact of certain mineral exploration and mining operations. Other key issues discussed included:

- changes in the Coal Compensation Board's royalty scheme
- the role and function of the minister for Mineral Resources within the Department of Primary Industries
- subsidence management
- Bounty Oil and Gas NL exploratory licences
- sand extraction on the Somersby plateau.

### ***Supplementary hearings***

**2.10** On 15 February 2005 a supplementary hearing was conducted. The key issues discussed concerned:

- restructure of Department and relocation to Maitland
- coal compensation liability
- mine safety inquiry
- mine safety monitoring
- Director-General's performance agreement
- long wall mining
- Cataract River Taskforce recommendations
- community consultation committees
- mine site rehabilitation.

**2.11** A further supplementary hearing took place on 30 March 2005, at which the following issues were the key focus:

- Sydney Gas exploration activities on the Central Coast and approval process
- subsidence management
- community consultation in mining areas

- Wilpinjong exploration licence tender process
- rehabilitation of derelict mines and current mining sites
- allegations aired in certain media
- Bickham coalmine bulk sample.

## **Rural Affairs, Local Government, Emergency Services, Lands**

**2.12** On 16 September 2004 the Committee conducted public hearings into the portfolios of Rural Affairs, Local Government, Emergency Services, Lands.

### **Lands and Rural Affairs**

**2.13** The key focus of discussions were:

- the conversion of eastern and central NSW perpetual leases to freehold title
- management and sale of Crown roads.

### **Local Government**

**2.14** The key issues discussed included the statutory decision-making power of the administrator of Warringah Council to sell Warringah Civic Centre. Other issues included:

- dismissal of Walgett Shire Council
- financial implications of local council amalgamations and strategic alliances
- the powers and procedures for investigating local councils.

### **Emergency Services**

**2.15** Amongst the issues discussed, rostering of fire fighters at Lismore fire station was of particular focus. Other issues discussed included:

- lease of the King Air twin-turbo prop aircraft for fire fighting purposes
- Rural Fire Services conference, August 2004
- emergency evacuation response plan for Lucas Heights
- faulty water tank mountings in fire trucks.

## **Environment**

**2.16** On 17 September 2004 the Committee conducted public hearings into the portfolio of the Environment. Groundwater contamination at the Orica Ltd site in Botany and the regulatory response by the EPA was discussed at length during the hearing. Other issues considered were:

- EPA investigation of breach of licence conditions by Waste Services NSW at its Lucas Heights treatment plant and penalty imposed and landfill gas levels at the Eastern Creek site
- storage of toxic hexachlorobenzene [HCB] material at the Orica site in Botany and EPA regulatory response
- suspension of waste treatment at the Lidcombe treatment plant during the Olympics
- funding and operations of the Dunphy Wilderness Fund
- pesticide use in the management of salvinia the Hawkesbury Nepean
- environmental management in the Kosciuszko area
- budget cuts to the National Parks and Wildlife Service and impact on staffing and services
- threatened species conservation under new legislation

### *Supplementary hearing*

**2.17** On 15 February 2005 a supplementary hearing was conducted. The key issues discussed concerned:

- flora and fauna survey work and biodiversity certification
- enforcement of integrated forestry operations approval conditions and threatened species licences
- pesticides regulation
- organic recycling targets
- removal of Moreton Bay Fig trees from Royal Botanic Gardens
- expenditure of Waste Levy funds
- treatment of pollution in Botany Bay
- Gwydir river environmental flow
- former Pasminco lead smelter at Cockle Creek, Lake Macquarie
- household chemical clean-ups.

## Appendix 1 Witnesses

### 1. Regional Business, Illawarra, Small Business

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
14 September 2004	The Hon David Campbell MP	Minister for Regional Development, the Illawarra, and Small Business
	Mr Loftus Harris	Director General, Department of State and Regional Development
	Mr Michael Cullen	Executive Director, Regional Development Division, Department of State and Regional Development
	Ms Julie Scott	Acting Executive Director, Small Business Development Division, Department of State and Regional Development

### 2. Primary Industries

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
15 September 2004	The Hon Ian McDonald MLC	Minister for Primary Industries
	Mr Barry Buffier	Director General, Department of Primary Industry
	Mr Alan Gleeson	Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Department of Primary Industry
	Mr Alan Coutts	Deputy Director General, Mineral Resources, Department of Primary Industry
25 February 2005 (supplementary hearing)	The Hon Ian McDonald MLC	Minister for Primary Industries
	Mr A Badenoch	Deputy Chief of Staff
	Mr Barry Buffier	Director General, Department of Primary Industries

### 3. Mineral Resources

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position and Organisation</b>
16 September 2004	The Hon Kerry Hickey MP	Minister for Mineral Resources
	Mr Barry Buffier	Director General, Department of Primary Industries
	Mr Alan Coutts	Deputy Director-General – Mineral Resources, Department of Primary Industries
	Mr Alan Gleeson	Executive Director, Corporate Services, Department of Primary Industries
	Mr H Bowman	CEO, Coal Compensation Board
	Mr T Galligan	Director, Minerals Development, Department of Primary Industry
15 February 2005 (supplementary hearing)	Mr Barry Buffier	Director General, Department of Primary Industries
	Mr Alan Coutts	Deputy Director General – Mineral Resources, Department of Primary Industries
	Dr Alan Gleeson	Executive Director, Corporate Services, Department of Primary Industries
	Mr H Bowman	CEO, Coal Compensation Board
30 March 2005 (supplementary hearing)	The Hon Kerry Hickey MP	Minister for Mineral Resources
	Mr Alan Coutts	Deputy Director General – Mineral Resources, Department of Primary Industries
	Mr Barry Buffier	Director General, Department of Primary Industries

### 4. Rural Affairs, Local Government, Emergency Services, Lands

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position and Organisation</b>
16 September 2004	The Hon Tony Kelly MLC	Minister for Rural Affairs, Local Government, Emergency Services and Lands
	Mr Warwick Watkins	Director General, Department of Lands
	Ms Louise Scambler	Director Group Finance, Department of Lands

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position and Organisation</b>
	Mr Richards Lyons	Director, Office of Emergency Services
	Commissioner Phil Koperberg	Director General, Rural Fire Service
	Brigadier Philip McNamara	Director General, State Emergency Service
	Commissioner Greg Mullins	NSW Fire Brigades
	Major General Hori Howard	Chair, State Emergency Management Committee
	Mr Garry Payne	Director General, Department of Local Government
	Mr John Hogg	Manager, Business Services, Department of Local Government
	Mr Ross Bailey	Business Services Coordinator Department of Local Government

## 5. Environment

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position and Organisation</b>
17 September 2004	The Hon R Debus MP	Minister for the Environment
	Ms Lisa Corbyn	Director General, Department of Environment and Conservation
	Mr Simon Smith	Deputy Director General, Environment Protection and Regulation Division, Department of Environment and Conservation
	Dr Tony Fleming	Deputy Director General, Parks and Wildlife Division, Department of Environment and Conservation
15 February 2005 (supplementary hearing)	Ms Lisa Corbyn	Director General, Department of Environment and Conservation
	Mr Simon Smith	Deputy Director General, Environment Protection and Regulation Division, Department of Environment and Conservation
	Dr Tony Fleming	Deputy Director General, Parks and Wildlife Division, Department of Environment and Conservation
	Mr A Diakos	Executive Director, Corporate Services, Department of Environment and Conservation

## Appendix 2 Minutes of proceedings

### Minutes 28

Tuesday 14 September 2004  
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5  
At Parliament House at 7.55pm, Room 814/815

#### 1. **Members Present**

Mr Ian Cohen (*Chair*)  
Mr Tony Catanzariti  
Mr Eric Roozendaal  
Ms Kayee Griffin  
Ms Sylvia Hale  
Mr David Clarke  
Mr Rick Colless (*Deputy Chair*)

#### 2. **Election of Deputy Chair**

The Chair called for nominations for Deputy Chair of the Committee.

Mr Catanzariti moved: That Ms Griffin be elected Deputy Chair of the Committee.

Ms Hale moved: That Mr Colless be elected Deputy Chair of the Committee.

Ballot papers were distributed by the Clerk to the Committee, and Members lodged their votes.

The Chair announced the result of the ballot as follows:

Ms Griffin—3 votes  
Mr Colless —4 votes

Mr Colless was declared elected Deputy Chair.

#### 3. **Substitute arrangements**

The Chair advised that Mr Clarke would be representing Mr Harwin, and Mr Roozendaal would be representing Mr Tsang for the purposes of this meeting.

#### 4. **Budget Estimates 2004-2005**

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

The Hon David Campbell MP, Minister for Regional Development, Minister for the Illawarra, Minister for Small Business, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisers:

##### ***Department of Small Business and Regional Development***

Mr Loftus Harris, Director General  
Mr Michael Cullen, Executive Director, Regional Development Division  
Ms Julie Scott, Acting Executive Director, Small Business Development Division

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 Regional Development, the Illawarra and Small Business open for examination.

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

Mr Roozendaal raised a point of order regarding whether a question from Mr Colless was outside the Minister's portfolio responsibilities. The Chair ruled that the question was in order.

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

## 5. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 10:00pm until 5.30pm on Wednesday 14 September 2004.

**Tanya Bosch**  
Clerk to the Committee

## Minutes 29

Wednesday 15 September 2004  
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5  
At Parliament House at 5.25pm, LC Chamber

### 1. Members Present

Mr Ian Cohen (*Chair*)  
Mr Tony Catanzariti  
Mr Henry Tsang  
Ms Kayee Griffin  
Ms Sylvia Hale  
Mr Duncan Gay  
Mr Rick Colless (*Deputy Chair*)

### 2. Substitute arrangements

The Chair advised that Mr Gay would be representing Mr Harwin for the purposes of this meeting.

### 3. Budget Estimates 2004-2005

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

The Hon Ian McDonald MP, Minister for Primary Industries, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisers:

#### ***Department of Primary Industries***

Mr Barry Buffier, Director General, Department of Primary Industries  
Mr Alan Gleeson, Executive Officer, Corporate Services  
Mr Alan Coutts, Deputy Director General, Mineral Resources

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 Primary Industries open for examination.

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

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

The Chair advised the Minister that Questions on Notice should be returned within 35 days.

Mr Gay moved that the Committee conduct a further hearing after the receipt of answers to Questions on Notice or the 35 day period, whichever came first, to consider matters relating to the proposed expenditure of the Primary Industries portfolio.

#### **4. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 7:40pm until 5.30pm on Thursday 16 September 2004.

**Steven Reynolds**  
**Clerk to the Committee**

#### **Minutes 30**

Thursday 16th September 2004  
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5  
At Parliament House at 5.20pm, Jubilee Room

#### **1. Members Present**

Mr Ian Cohen (*Chair*)  
Mr Tony Catanzariti  
Mr Duncan Gay (Colless)  
Ms Kayee Griffin  
Ms Sylvia Hale  
Mr Don Harwin  
Mr Peter Primrose (Tsang)

#### **2. Substitute arrangements**

The Chair advised that Mr Gay would be representing Mr Colless and Mr Primrose would be representing Mr Tsang for the purposes of this meeting.

#### **3. Budget Estimates 2004-2005**

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

The Hon Kerry Hickey MP, Minister for Mineral Resources, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisers.

#### ***Mineral Resources***

Mr B Buffier, Director General  
Mr A. Coutts, Deputy Director-General

Mr A Gleeson, Executive Director, Corporate Services  
 Mr H Bowman, CEO, Coal Compensation Board  
 Mr T Galligan, Director, Minerals Development

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 Mineral Resources open for examination.

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

The Chair advised the Minister that Questions on Notice should be returned within 35 days.

The Chair advised the Minister that the Committee may resolve to conduct a further hearing at a date to be determined.

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

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Harwin, that the Committee hold a further hearing on a date after the return of questions on notice to be determined by the Chair following consultation with Committee members to consider matters relating to the portfolio area of Mineral Resources.

#### 4. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 7.30pm until 7.45pm.

**Stephen Frappell**  
 Clerk to the Committee

#### Minutes 31

Thursday 16 September 2004  
 General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5  
 At Parliament House at 7.55pm, Jubilee Room

##### 1. Members Present

Mr Ian Cohen (*Chair*)  
 Ms Amanda Fazio  
 Mr Ian West  
 Ms Kayee Griffin  
 Ms Sylvia Hale  
 Mr Charlie Lynn  
 Mr Rick Colless (*Deputy Chair*)

##### 2. Substitute arrangements

The Chair advised that Mr Charlie Lynn would be representing Mr Don Harwin and Ms Amanda Fazio would be representing Mr Henry Tsang for the purposes of this meeting.

### 3. Budget Estimates 2004-2005

Resolved, on the motion of Mr West, that the Committee deal with the portfolios in the following order – Lands, Rural Affairs, Emergency Services and Local Government.

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

The Hon Tony Kelly MLC, Minister for Rural Affairs, Local Government, Emergency Services and Lands, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisers:

#### *Department of Lands*

Mr Warwick Watkins, Director General

Ms Louise Scambler, Director Group Finance

#### *Emergency Services*

Mr Richards Lyons, Director, Office of Emergency Services

Commissioner Phil Koperberg, Director General, Rural Fire Service

Brigadier Philip McNamara, Director General, State Emergency Service

Commissioner Greg Mullins, NSW Fire Brigades

Major General Hori Howard, Chair, State Emergency Management Committee

#### *Department of Local Government*

Mr Garry Payne, Director General

Mr John Hogg, Manager, Business Services

Mr Ross Bailey, Business Services Coordinator

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 Lands, Rural Affairs, Emergency Services and Local Government 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 Rural Affairs, Local Government, Emergency Services and Lands concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

### 4. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 10:05pm until 2.00pm on Friday 17 September 2004.

**Julie Langsworth**

**Clerk to the Committee**

### Minutes 32

Friday 17 September 2004

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

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

#### 1. Members Present

Mr Ian Cohen (*Chair*)

Ms Jan Burnswoods (Catanzariti)

Mr David Clarke (Colless)  
 Ms Kayee Griffin  
 Ms Sylvia Hale  
 Ms Robyn Parker (Harwin)  
 Mr Henry Tsang

## 2. **Substitute arrangements**

The Chair advised that Ms Burnswoods would be representing Mr Catanzariti, Mr Clarke would be representing Mr Colless and Ms Parker would be representing Mr Harwin for the purposes of this meeting.

## 3. **Budget Estimates 2004-2005**

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

The Hon Bob Debus MP, Minister for the Environment, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisers:

### ***Department of Environment and Conservation***

Ms Lisa Corbyn, Director General  
 Mr Simon Smith, Deputy Director General, Environment Protection and Regulation Division  
 Mr Tony Fleming, Deputy Director General, Parks and Wildlife Division

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 the Environment open for examination.

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

The Chair advised the Minister that Questions on Notice should be returned within 35 days.

The Chair advised the Minister that the Committee may resolve to conduct a further hearing at a date to be determined.

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

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Parker, that the Committee hold a further hearing on a date after the return of questions on notice to be determined by the Chair following consultation with Committee members to consider matters relating to the portfolio area of the Environment portfolio.

## 4. **Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 4:10 pm *sine die*.

**Stephen Frappell**  
**Clerk to the Committee**

### Minutes No 34

Wednesday, 1 December 2004

Room 1108 Parliament House at 2:00 pm

**1. Members Present**

Mr Ian Cohen (Chair)  
Mr Rick Colless  
Ms Amanda Fazio (Tsang)  
Ms Kayee Griffin  
Ms Sylvia Hale  
Ms Robyn Parker  
Mr Ian West (Catanzariti)

**2. Substitutions**

The Chair informed the Committee that he had received written advice from the Government Whip that Ms Fazio would substitute for Mr Tsang for the meeting, and that Mr West would substitute for Mr Catanzariti for the meeting.

**3. Minutes**

Resolved, on motion of Mr Colless: That Minutes 33 be amended by replacing “Mr Tsang” with “Mr Catanzariti” at the top of page 3.

Resolved on motion of Mr Colless: That Minutes 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, (Estimates) and 33 (Murrumbidgee) be confirmed.

**4. ...**

**5. Budget Estimates 2004-2005**

Resolved, on motion of Mr Colless: That the Committee Clerk contact the Ministers’ offices to ascertain their availability for a further hearing on 25 February or if that is not suitable, any non-sitting day in the previous fortnight, for the portfolios of Primary Industries, Mineral Resources and Environment.

**6. ...**

**7. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 7.10pm.

**Steven Reynolds**  
**Clerk to the Committee**

### Minutes 35

Tuesday 15 February 2005

At Parliament House at 2.00pm

**1. Members Present**

Mr Ian Cohen (*Chair*)  
Mr Catanzariti  
Mr Duncan Gay (Colless)  
Ms Kayee Griffin  
Ms Lee Rhiannon (Hale) Minerals Portfolio only  
Ms Robyn Parker (Harwin) Environment Portfolio only

Mr Henry Tsang

**2. Substitute arrangements**

The Chair advised that Mr Duncan Gay was substituting for Mr Rick Colless, Ms Robyn Parker was substituting for Mr Don Harwin for the Environment Portfolio only and Ms Lee Rhiannon was substituting for Ms Sylvia Hale for the Minerals Portfolio only.

**3. Budget Estimates 2004-2005 public hearing**

The Director General, Department of Environment and Conservation, Ms Lisa Corbyn was admitted accompanied by the following advisers:

***Department of Environment and Conservation***

Mr Simon Smith, Deputy Director General, Environment Protection and Regulation Division

Mr Tony Fleming, Deputy Director General, Parks and Wildlife Division

Mr Arthur Diakos, Executive Director, Corporate 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 Environment and Conservation open for examination.

Ms Corbyn, Mr Smith, Mr Fleming and Mr Diako answered questions by Members of the Committee.

Examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Environment and Conservation concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

***Department of Mineral Resources***

The Director General of the Department of Primary Industries, Mr Barry Buffier was admitted, accompanied by the following advisors:

Mr Alan Coutts, Deputy Director General, Mineral Resources

Dr Alan Gleeson, Executive Director, Corporate Services

Mr Harry Bowman, CEO, Coal Compensation Board

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

Mr Buffier, Mr Coutts, Dr Gleeson and Mr Bowman answered questions by Members of the Committee.

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

**4. Deliberative meeting**

Mr Harwin moved: that Committee Chair seek leave of the House to extend the reporting date until 31 March 2005.

Debate ensued

Question put and passed

Mr Gay moved: that the Committee invite the Minister for the Environment and Conservation to attend a public hearing of the Committee

Debate ensued

Question put and passed

Mr Gay moved: that the Committee invite the Minister for Mineral Resources to attend a public hearing of the Committee.

Debate ensued

Question put and passed

Resolved on the motion of Mr Tsang that the Departments be given 28 days to return their answers to questions taken on notice during the hearings.

## 5. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 5.03pm *sine die*.

## Tanya Bosch

Clerk to the Committee

## Minutes 36

Friday 25 February 2005

At Parliament House at 11.00am

### 1. Members Present

Mr Ian Cohen (*Chair*)

Mr Tony Catanzariti

Mr Richard Colless (*Deputy Chair*)

Mr Duncan Gay (Harwin)

Ms Kayee Griffin

### 2. Apologies

Ms Sylvia Hale

Mr Henry Tsang

### 3. Substitute arrangements

The Chair advised that Mr Duncan Gay would be representing Mr Don Harwin.

### 4. Budget Estimates 2004-2005 public hearing

The Hon Ian Macdonald MLC, Minister for Primary Industries, was admitted accompanied by the following advisers:

#### *Office of the Minister of Primary Industries*

Mr Adam Badenoch, Deputy Chief of Staff

#### *Department of Primary Industries*

Mr Barry Buffier, 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 area of Primary Industries open for examination.

Mr Macdonald, Mr Badenoch and Mr Buffier answered questions by Members of the Committee.

Examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Primary Industries concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

## 5. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 12.33pm *sine die*.

**Julie Langsworth**

Clerk to the Committee

## Minutes 37

Wednesday 2 May 2005

1:00 pm LC Members' Lounge

### 1. Members Present

Mr Ian Cohen (*Chair*)

Mr Tony Catanzariti

Mr Richard Colless (*Deputy Chair*)

Mr Don Harwin

Ms Kayee Griffin

Mr Henry Tsang

### 2. Correspondence received

The Committee noted correspondence received from Mr Kerry Hickey, Minister for Natural Resources, dated 28 February 2005, relating to his availability to appear before the Committee.

### 3. Budget Estimates 2004-2005

The Committee considered dates and times for the next hearing with Minister Hickey. Resolved, on the motion of Mr Colless, that the hearing take place on 30 March 2005, 2:00pm – 3:30pm, and that the Chair request that the House extend the Committee's Budget Estimates reporting date to the end of April.

### 4. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 1:10 pm.

**Tanya Bosch**

Clerk to the Committee

## Minutes 38

Wednesday 30 March 2005

At Parliament House at 2.00pm

### 1. Members Present

Mr Ian Cohen (*Chair*)  
Mr Rick Colless (*Deputy Chair*)  
Mr Tony Catanzariti  
Ms Kayee Griffin  
Mr David Clarke (Harwin)  
Mr Henry Tsang

**2. Substitute arrangements**

The Chair advised that Mr David Clarke was substituting for Mr Don Harwin for the purposes of this hearing.

**3. Budget Estimates 2004-2005 public hearing**

The Minister for Mineral Resources, the Hon Kerry Hickey MP, was admitted, accompanied by the following advisers:

***Department of Primary Industries***

Mr Barry Buffier, Director General, Department of Primary Industries

Mr Alan Coutts, Deputy Director General, Mineral Resources.

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 open for examination.

The Minister for Mineral Resources made an opening statement.

The Minister, Mr Buffier and Mr Coutts answered questions by Members of the Committee.

Examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Mineral Resources concluded.

The Chair advised the witnesses that the Committee would advise the Minister of the timeframe for return of answers to questions taken on notice.

The witnesses and the public withdrew.

**4. Deliberative meeting**

***Answers to questions on notice***

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Catanzariti: that the Committee seek the return of answers to questions on notice by 22 April 2005, and that the Minister for Mineral Resources be informed of that date.

...

***Further budget estimates activities***

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Tsang: that the Committee hold no further hearings in relation to the Budget Estimates Inquiry for 2004-2005, and that the Chair prepare a draft report.

**5. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 3.40pm *sine die*.

**Tanya Bosch**  
Clerk to the Committee

**Minutes No 39**

Friday 22 April 2005

At Parliament House, Room 1153, 12.35pm

**1. Members Present**

Mr Ian Cohen (*Chair*)  
Mr Duncan Gay (Colless)  
Ms Sylvia Hale  
Mr Greg Donnelly (Catanzariti)  
Ms Kayee Griffin  
Ms Patricia Forsythe (Harwin)  
Mr Ian West (Tsang)

**2. Substitute arrangements**

The Chair advised that Mr Donnelly was substituting for Mr Catanzariti, Mr Gay was substituting for Mr Colless, Ms Forsythe was substituting for Mr Harwin and Mr West was substituting for Mr Tsang for the purposes of this meeting.

**3. Confirmation of minutes**

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Hale, that minutes numbered 34 – 38 be confirmed.

**4. Consideration of Chair's draft report on Budget Estimates 2004-2005**

The committee considered the Chair's draft report, which having been previously circulated, was taken as being read.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Gay

1. that the report be the report of the Committee and be signed by the Chair and presented to the House in accordance with Standing Orders 230 and 231, together with the minutes, answers to questions on notice, transcripts, correspondence and tabled documents.

2. that pursuant to the provisions of section 4 of the *Parliamentary Papers (Supplementary Provisions) Act 1975* the Committee authorises the publication of all minutes, answers to questions on notice, correspondence, and tabled documents.

3. that the Committee Secretariat be permitted to correct typographical, stylistic and grammatical errors in the report prior to tabling.

**5. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 12.45pm *sine die*.

**Tanya Bosch**  
Clerk to the Committee