



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 5

Budget Estimates 2021-2022

Report 59

June 2022

5



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Portfolio Committee No. 5 - Regional NSW and Stronger
Communities

Budget Estimates 2021-2022

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Budget Estimates 2021-2022.

"June 2022"

Chair: Hon. Robert Borsak, MLC.



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Terms of reference

1. That the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2021-2022 presenting the amounts to be appropriated from the Consolidated Fund be referred to the Portfolio Committees for inquiry and report.
2. That, further to the resolution of the House of 11 November 2020 adopting the 2021 sitting calendar, the 2021-2022 initial budget estimates hearings be scheduled as follows:

Day One: Monday 16 August 2021

PC 5 Counter Terrorism and Corrections
PC 7 Planning and Public Spaces

Day Two: Tuesday 17 August 2021

PC 2 Health and Medical Research
PC 1 Special Minister of State, Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs and the Arts

Day Three: Wednesday 18 August 2021

PC 3 Education and Early Childhood Learning
PC 4 Agriculture and Western New South Wales
PC 1 The Legislature

Day Four: Thursday 19 August 2021

PC 7 Local Government
PC 2 Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women

Day Five: Friday 20 August 2021

PC 1 Treasury
PC 6 Customer Service and Digital

Day Six: Monday 23 August 2021

PC 7 Energy and Environment
PC 5 Attorney General and Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence

Day Seven: Tuesday 24 August 2021

PC 1 Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney
PC 6 Regional Transport and Roads

Day Eight: Wednesday 25 August 2021

PC 3 Skills and Tertiary Education
PC 5 Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans

Day Nine: Thursday 26 August 2021

PC 6 Transport and Roads
PC 1 Premier

Day Ten: Friday 27 August 2021

PC 4 Water, Property and Housing
 PC 5 Families, Communities and Disability Services

Day Eleven: Monday 30 August 2021

PC 6 Better Regulation and Innovation
 PC 4 Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade

Day Twelve: Tuesday 31 August 2021

PC 5 Police and Emergency Services
 PC 1 Finance and Small Business

3. That for the purposes of the Budget Estimates inquiry 2021-2022:
- (a) for each scheduled day of the initial and further rounds of hearings:
 - (i) each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm, and from 2.00 pm to 5.45 pm, with an additional 15 minutes reserved for government questions for each of the morning and afternoon sessions,
 - (ii) the portfolio of The Legislature be examined concurrently by Opposition, Crossbench and Government members from 9.30 am until 12.30 pm,
 - (b) the committees must hear evidence in public,
 - (c) the committees may ask for explanations from ministers, parliamentary secretaries or officers of departments, statutory bodies or corporations, relating to the items of proposed expenditure,
 - (d) witnesses, including ministers, may not make an opening statement before the committee commences questions,
 - (e) members may lodge supplementary questions with the committee clerk by 5.00 pm within two business days following a hearing, and
 - (f) answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions are to be published, except those answers for which confidentiality is requested, after they have been circulated to committee members.
4. That the committees present a final report to the House by 30 June 2022.

The terms of reference were referred to the committee by the Legislative Council on 23 June 2021.¹

¹ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 23 June 2021, pp 2348-2349. The Terms of reference were further amended - *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 12 October 2021, pp 2401-2404; *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 14 October 2021, p 2488; *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 21 October 2021, p 2579; *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 16 November 2021, p 2713; *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 23 February 2022, pp 2969-2970; *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 29 March 2022, pp 3121-3122; *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 30 March 2022, p 3146.

Committee details

Committee members

The Hon Robert Borsak MLC	Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party	<i>Chair</i>
The Hon Lou Amato MLC	Liberal Party	
The Hon Scott Barrett MLC	The Nationals	
Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC	The Greens	
The Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC	Australian Labor Party	
The Hon Peter Poulos MLC	Liberal Party	
The Hon Adam Searle MLC	Australian Labor Party	

Non-substantive members who attended the hearings

Ms Abigail Boyd MLC	The Greens
The Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon Anthony D'Adam MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon Wes Fang MLC	The Nationals
The Hon Rose Jackson MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon Trevor Khan MLC	The Nationals
The Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC	Liberal Party
The Hon Taylor Martin MLC	Liberal Party
The Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon Tara Moriarty MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon Walt Secord MLC	Australian Labor Party
The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC	Australian Labor Party
Mr David Shoebridge MLC	The Greens
The Hon Mick Veitch MLC	Australian Labor Party

Contact details

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Chair's foreword

I am pleased to present this report on the Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022. 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 Legislative Council.

Portfolio Committee No. 5 is responsible for the scrutiny of the following portfolio areas:

- Attorney General
- Corrections
- Deputy Premier, Regional NSW, Police
- Emergency Services and Resilience
- Families and Communities, Disability Services
- Multiculturalism and Seniors.

The key evidence gathering mechanism of this Inquiry is through the conduct of public hearings. This report lists the key issues raised during the hearings. Transcripts, tabled documents and additional answers provided after the hearings are published on the [Inquiry's webpage](#).

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 Robert Borsak MLC
Chair

Chapter 1 Introduction

The Inquiry into Budget Estimates is one of the key mechanisms for parliamentary committees to scrutinise government expenditure, performance and effectiveness. It holds ministers and government officials to account and provides a greater level of transparency to the public.

The Inquiry is conducted annually by the Legislative Council's Portfolio Committees. Each committee examines the budget estimates of its responsible portfolios, with ministers and senior public servants as the primary witnesses. The evidence taking process of the Inquiry consists of answers provided during public hearings and answers to post-hearing written questions (known as supplementary questions). There is no provision for written submissions.

Budget Estimates 2021-2022

- 1.1 On 11 November 2020 the House resolved that for the purposes of the Budget Estimates inquiry 2021-2022, initial hearings be scheduled over 12 days from 16 August to 20 August 2021, 23 August to 27 August 2021, and 30 to 31 August 2021, and that supplementary hearings be scheduled over five days from 25 October to 29 October 2021.²
- 1.2 The Budget Estimates resolution and schedule was subsequently agreed to by the House on 23 June 2021, referring the Budget Estimates and related papers for 2021-2022 to the Portfolio Committees for inquiry and report.² The budget estimates resolution establishing the Inquiry, which sets out the rules for the Inquiry, is reproduced on pages iv and v.
- 1.3 However, upon nearing the commencement of the initial hearings, the impact of the Delta variant of the Covid 19 virus was being felt through the community, and members of the Legislative Council agreed to defer the initial round of hearings and replace it with fully virtual hearings for eight key portfolio areas. These were: Premier, Treasury, Health, Customer Service and Digital, Education and Early Childhood Learning, Regional NSW, Industry and Trade, Police, and Transport and Roads. The House subsequently retrospectively resolved these arrangements on Tuesday 12 October 2021.³ On the same day, the House also resolved to hold supplementary hearings over 9 days commencing 26 October 2021.⁴
- 1.4 In November 2021, the House resolved that for the purposes of the Budget Estimates inquiry 2021-2022 additional hearings be scheduled over 12 days from 28 February to 4 March 2022, 7 March to 11 March 2022, and 14 March to 15 March 2022.⁵ The House subsequently resolved to hold the hearings over 13 days, commencing 28 February.⁶ Due to significant flooding events affecting northern New South Wales occurring during this time, three hearings – Deputy Premier, Regional NSW and Police, Premier, and Emergency Services and Resilience were postponed. On 29 March 2022 the House resolved new hearing dates for these portfolios, and

² *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 11 November 2020, p 1547; *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 23 June 2021, p 2349.

³ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 12 October 2021, p 2401.

⁴ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 12 October 2021, p 2402.

⁵ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 16 November 2021, p 2713.

⁶ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 23 February 2022, p 2970.

also authorised each of the Portfolio Committees to hold further additional budget estimate hearings up to 30 May 2022.⁷

Hearings

1.5 The committee held 12 public hearings as follows:

- Wednesday 1 September 2021 - Police
- Friday 29 October 2021 – Families, Communities and Disability Services
- Friday 29 October 2021 – Police and Emergency Services
- Monday 1 November 2021 – Attorney General and Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence
- Friday 5 November 2021 – Counter Terrorism and Corrections
- Friday 5 November 2021 – Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans
- Wednesday 2 March 2022 – Families and Communities, Disability Services
- Monday 7 March 2022 – Corrections
- Monday 14 March 2022 – Multiculturalism, Seniors
- Wednesday 16 March 2022 – Attorney General
- Wednesday 6 April 2022 – Emergency Services and Resilience
- Wednesday 4 May 2022 – Deputy Premier, Regional New South Wales, and Police

Transcripts, questions on notice and supplementary questions

1.6 Transcripts of the hearings, questions taken on notice, supplementary questions and answers to these questions are available on the Budget Estimates web page at: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/budgetestimates.

⁷ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 29 March 2022, p 3121.

Chapter 2 Issues raised during hearings

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

Police

2.1 A hearing examining the portfolio of the Police was held on Wednesday 1 September 2021. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- Vaccination rates of NSW Police Officers
- NSW Police response to COVID-19:
- Infringement notices issued
- Protests
- COVID-19 outbreaks in prisons
- Wilcannia outbreak
- Data regarding sexual assault claims being withdrawn and discontinued
- Strike Force Wyndarra
- Conduct of Mr Lanyon in Lockyer St, Goulburn and subsequent investigation
- Ideological and religious extremism
- Fixated Persons Unit
- Firearm Registry
- Cyber incident complaints made to NSW Police Force in last 12 months/Cyber infrastructure
- Royal Commission into Hillsong Church and conduct of Brian Houston

Police and Emergency Services

2.2 A hearing examining the portfolio of the Police was held on Friday 29 October 2021. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- Mostafa Baluch
- Infringements and policing of COVID health orders
- Hamze and Alameddine families
- Standard operating procedures regarding illegal firearms
- Firearms registry
- Operation Dominion
- Suspect Target Management Plans (STMP)

- Fixated persons unit
- Data collection regarding sexual assaults
- Operations and staffing of Fire and Rescue NSW

Families, Communities and Disability Services

2.3 A hearing examining the portfolio of the Families, Communities and Disability Services was held on Friday 29 October 2021. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- Temporary housing accommodation during and after the COVID-19 lock down
- Social housing wait lists and priority access
- Homelessness services for women over 55 years of age
- The role of Justice Health in planning and responding to COVID, ongoing management, procedures and vaccination rates
- The number of children in detention
- The number of children in and duration of alternative care arrangements including the percentage of children that are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- Foster carers in New South Wales
- Serious harm reports including the percentage of cases that have not been followed up and re-reporting rates
- The proportion of the child protection and out-of-home care budget utilised for prevention and early intervention
- Family Is Culture report recommendation implementation update
- The number of Aboriginal-controlled organisations that provide out-of-home care services
- Closing the Gap – Priority Reform 2 and governmental progress in developing the Aboriginal community-controlled sector
- National Construction Code minimum accessibility standards
- The number of New South Wales residents accessing the National Disability Insurance Scheme
- The disability employment plan and the percentage of people with a disability that are employed in the public sector workforce
- Auslan interpreters at press conferences

Families & Communities, Disability Services

2.4 A hearing examining the portfolio of the Families & Communities, Disability Services was held on Wednesday 2 March 2022. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- Revenue NSW, including, fairer fines programs, unpaid fine debt recovery, garnishee provisions, fines for minors and vulnerable persons or communities.
- Dust Diseases Board, including, scheme scope and operation, scheme viability, legislative review, support programs for workers,
- icare, including funding ratios of the nominal insurer, and operational matters.
- Public sector employment, including, transport worker industrial action in February 2022, industrial action by nurses, teachers and others, workplace conditions, the nature of work, wage policy, renegotiations of workplace agreements

Attorney General and Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence

2.5 A hearing examining the portfolio of the Attorney General and Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence was held on Monday 1 November 2021. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- Use of private companies for ankle monitoring devices
- FriendlyJordies case
- Implementation of recommendations from the Special Commission Inquiry into the Drug 'Ice'
- Legal costs of Mr Daryl Maguire
- Premier's Priority to reduce number of domestic violence reoffenders by 25 per cent by 2023
- Increase in the number of women's refuges
- High level of First Nations deaths in custody

Attorney General

2.6 A hearing examining the portfolio of the Attorney General was held on Monday 16 March 2022. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- Efficacy of LECC and DPP in relation to monitoring/investigating/prosecuting police officers
- Revision of legislation including:
 - Law Reform Vicarious Liability Act
 - Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act
 - Drug offences legislation

- Bail Act
- Crimes Domestic and Personal Violence *Act* 2007
- Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture Implementation Bill 2021
- Revision of processes regarding investigation (violation) of the code of ethics declaration
- Historic cases, including Kathleen Folbigg and the Bowraville murders
- Child offending
- NSW Courts, including appointment of magistrates and resourcing of the Coroners' Court
- Employment within Crown Solicitor's office

Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans

2.7 A hearing examining the portfolio of the Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans was held on Friday 5 November 2021. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- Communication of COVID-19 public health information in languages other than English to NESB/CALD communities in Western Sydney
- Women's participation in sport, including the discrepancy in prize money between men's and women's sport
- The NSW Government's Active Kids Vouchers Program, including uptake of vouchers and management of recipient data
- NSW Government funding for regional pools
- The NSW Government's 'First Lap' Voucher Program
- Strength and conditioning training accreditation requirements
- The NSW Government's Grass Roots Sports Fund – number of applications in the 2020 funding round
- The NSW Government's Local Sport Grant Program
- The number of NSW State Sporting Organisations that have signed up to the National Redress Scheme
- The number of calls to the Ageing and Disability Abuse Help Line and prosecutions for elder abuse
- The Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) Road World Championships (Wollongong, 2022) Legacy Fund – assessment and determination of grants
- Cost benefit ratio for approved Office of Sport grants
- Multicultural NSW COVID-19 financial support to community organisations and NGOs

- Multicultural NSW and NSW Police engagement with multicultural communities throughout the COVID-19 lockdown
- Role and funding of Multicultural NSW regional advisory councils
- Commencement of legislative amendments protecting against discrimination on religious grounds
- Consultation between the Commonwealth and NSW Governments for the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide
- Data on the number of veteran suicides in NSW
- Mental health support and services for veterans
- The NSW Government's Veterans Employment Program
- Support for veterans at risk of homelessness

Counter Terrorism and Corrections

2.8 A hearing examining the portfolio of the Counter Terrorism and Corrections was held on Friday 5 November 2021. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- Covid 19 in prisons
- Death of inmate
- Retired facilities
- Terrorism
- Prison riots
- Women in prison
- Mouse plague in prison

Corrections

2.9 A hearing examining the portfolio of the Corrections was held on Monday 7 March 2022. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- Assaults and major incidents involving corrections staff, and contributing factors.
- Status of family visits, advice on risks posed, mental health implications for prisoners and their families.
- Effect of COVID lockdowns and restrictions on prison contraband detections, drug consumption as measured by urinary analysis.
- Process for dealing with social media posts that may be inciting violence against inmates and their families.
- Process for approving or rejecting medical transfer for prisoners ill with COVID

- Regime of contractual penalties or "charge events" for private prisons operators, in relation to three riots.
- Process for approving and facilitating medical transfers, policies on disclosure to inmates and/or family.
- Provision of drug and alcohol rehabilitation services, cessations due to COVID, and planning for resumption.
- Recent death in custody in Bathurst, cause of death, mitigation or flagging procedure for prisoners who may be at risk.

Multiculturalism & Seniors

2.10 A hearing examining the portfolio of the Corrections was held on Monday 14 March 2022. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- COVID-19 Multicultural strategy – Multicultural NSW communication strategy
- Multicultural NSW funding cycle – funding of community organisations
- Resources to assist Ukrainian refugees - Support for Ukrainian refugees
- Interpreting services – COVID-19 translating services working with government departments. Translating important information.
- Multicultural Media and Multicultural Media Awards
- Multicultural Link Services
- Grants programs, including; Multicultural NSW COVID-19 Community Support Grants, Empowering community grants, Reducing Social Isolation in Seniors Grant Program
- Supporting seniors through the floods
- Rental shortage for seniors
- Age crime prevention
- Elder abuse
- COVID-19 restrictions and impact on older residents
- Aging Well Strategy – Action plan
- Evaluation of the NSW Older People's Mental Health Services plan

Emergency services and resilience

2.11 A hearing examining the portfolio of the Emergency Services and Resilience was held on Wednesday 6 April 2022. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- Recent and ongoing floods in New South Wales
 - Roles of the Minister, Resilience NSW and SES in flood response

- Australian Defence Force liaison and engagement
- Evacuation messaging in Lismore on 29 March
- Rain gauge and siren equipment in Lismore
- Coordination of boats and helicopters during rescues
- Emergency accommodation in Northern Rivers region
- Resumption of electricity supply in Lismore
- Vulnerability and preparedness of New South Wales to future climate events
- Owens review into 2017 floods
- Flood emergency sub plans
- Staffing and structure of Resilience NSW
- Distribution of funds raised by Celeste Barber during 2020 bushfires
- Workplace protections for RFS volunteers
- Fire and Rescue NSW response times
- Female amenities in fire stations
- Construction and staffing of Oran Park fire station
- Noetic bushfire reports
- New Minister for Flood Recovery title

Deputy Premier, Regional New South Wales, Police

2.12 A hearing examining the portfolios of the Deputy Premier, Regional New South Wales and Police was held on Wednesday 4 May 2022. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of these portfolios:

- Police:
 - Police call response times, including impacts of construction and public health orders during COVID lockdowns
 - Staffing levels at NSW Police
 - Strike Force Raptor
 - COVID-19 vaccine mandates for police officers
 - Extremist groups in NSW, including Australian Cossacks and Pro-Putin Groups
 - Police perpetrators of domestic violence
 - Fixated person unit
 - Strike Force Wyagan
 - Police stations building and planning process, including Bega, Goulburn, Jindabyne, Singleton, Murwillumbah, and Gunnedah

- Anti-protest laws
 - Impact of COVID on police training of probationary constables
 - Royal Easter Show stabbing
 - Statutory review of forfeiture of proceeds of crime legislation
- Firearms:
 - Firearms Registry
 - Manufacturing of 3D weapons
 - Coronial Inquest into the murders of Jack and Jennifer Edwards
 - Changes to Category D firearms
- Mining and Energy:
 - Mining on the Liverpool plains
 - Greenfield coal mining
 - Hunter expert panel on economic transition in the community
 - Eraring Power Station closure
 - Legacy Mines Program
 - Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund
- Northern Rivers Flooding:
 - Northern Rivers reconstruction organisation
 - Application grants for small business operators impacted by floods
 - NSW Government preparedness for the floods in the Northern Rivers
 - Flood Inquiry led by Professor Mary O'Kane and Mick Fuller
 - Housing needed in the Northern Rivers
 - Land swaps in the Northern Rivers

Appendix 1 Witnesses at hearings

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
Wednesday 1 September 2021 Virtual hearing via videoconference	Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter	Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice
	Commissioner Michael Fuller	Commissioner, NSW Police Force
	Commissioner Michael Barnes	NSW Crimes Commission
	Deputy Commissioner Gary Worboys	NSW Police Force
	Mr Mark Walton	Assistant Commissioner, Investigations and Counter Terrorism, NSW Police Force
	Mr Scott Cook	Assistant Commissioner, Police Prosecutions and Licensing Enforcement Command, NSW Police Force
	Mr Dave Hudson	Deputy Commissioner, Investigations and Counter Terrorism, NSW Police Force
Friday 29 October 2021 Macquarie Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Alister Henskens MP	Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services
	Ms Catherine D'Elia	Acting Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice
	Ms Simone Czech	Deputy Secretary, Child Protection and Permanency, District and Youth Justice Services, Department of Communities and Justice
	Mr Paul Vevers	Deputy Secretary, Housing, Disability and District Services, Department of Communities and Justice (<i>via Webex</i>)
	Ms Anne Campbell	Acting Deputy Secretary, Strategy, Policy and Commissioning, Department of Communities and Justice (<i>via Webex</i>)
	Mr Paul O'Reilly	Executive Director, Youth Justice, Department of Communities and Justice (<i>via Webex</i>)

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
Friday 29 October 2021 Macquarie Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon David Elliott MP	Minister for Police and Emergency Services
	Commissioner Michael Fuller	Commissioner, NSW Police Force
	Ms Catherine D'Elia	Acting Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice
	Commissioner Paul Baxter	Commissioner, NSW Rural Fire Service <i>(via Webex)</i>
	Commissioner Carlene York	Commissioner, NSW State Emergency Service <i>(via Webex)</i>
	Commissioner Rob Rogers	Commissioner, NSW Rural Fire Service <i>(via Webex)</i>
	Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons	Commissioner, Resilience NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet <i>(via Webex)</i>
	Commissioner Michael Barnes	NSW Crimes Commission <i>(via Webex)</i>
	Deputy Commissioner Gary Worboys	State Emergency Operation Controller and Deputy Commissioner, New South Wales Police Force <i>(via Webex)</i>
Assistant Commissioner Mark Walton	Assistant Commissioner, Counter Terrorism and Special Tactics Command, New South Wales Police Force <i>(via Webex)</i>	
Mr Cameron Lindsay	Commander, NSW Firearms Registry, New South Wales Police Force <i>(via Webex)</i>	
Monday 1 November 2021 Macquarie Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Mark Speakman MP	Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections
	Ms Catherine D'Elia	Acting Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice
	Mr Paul McKnight	Deputy Secretary, Law Reform and Legal Services, Department of Communities and Justice
	Ms Anne Campbell	Acting Deputy Secretary, Strategy, Policy and Commissioning, Department of Communities and Justice <i>(via Webex)</i>

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
	Mr Brendan Thomas	Chief Executive Officer, Legal Aid NSW <i>(via Webex)</i>
	Ms Karen Smith	NSW Crown Solicitor <i>(via Webex)</i>
Friday 5 November 2021 Macquarie Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Anthony Roberts MP	Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections
	Ms Catherine D'Elia	Acting Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice
	Mr Kevin Corcoran	Acting Commissioner, Corrective Services NSW, Department of Communities and Justice
	Ms Pia Van De Zandt	Acting Executive Director, Strategy and Programs, Department of Communities and Justice <i>(via Webex)</i>
	Ms Sandra Crawford	Assistant Commissioner, Community Corrections, Corrective Services NSW, Department of Communities and Justice <i>(via Webex)</i>
	Mr Luke Grant	Deputy Commissioner, Corrective Services NSW, Department of Communities and Justice <i>(via Webex)</i>
	Mr David Frearson	Chairman State Parole Authority, Department of Communities and Justice <i>(via Webex)</i>
Friday 5 November 2021 Macquarie Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Natalie Ward MLC	Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans
	Mr Joseph La Posta	Chief Executive Officer, Multicultural NSW
	Ms Karen Jones	Chief Executive Officer, Office of Sport
	Ms Caroline Mackaness	Director, Office of Veterans Affairs <i>(via Webex)</i>
	Ms Catherine D'Elia	Acting Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice <i>(via Webex)</i>
	Mr Simon Draper	Chief Executive Officer, Infrastructure NSW <i>(via Webex)</i>
	Ms Kerrie Mather	Chief Executive Officer, Venues NSW <i>(via Webex)</i>

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
	Ms Tanya Smyth	Director, Women NSW, Seniors and Carers (<i>via Webex</i>)
Wednesday 2 March 2022 Macquarie Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC	Minister for Families and Communities and Minister for Disability Services
	Mr Michael Tidball	Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice
	Ms Simone Czech	Deputy Secretary, Permanency, District and Youth Justice Services, Department of Communities and Justice
	Mr Paul Vevers	Deputy Secretary, Housing, Disability and District Services, Department of Communities and Justice
	Ms Anne Campbell	Acting Deputy Secretary, Strategy, Policy and Commissioning, Department of Communities and Justice
	Mr Paul O'Reilly	Executive Director, Youth Justice, Department of Communities and Justice
	Mr Brendan Thomas	Deputy Secretary, Transforming Aboriginal Outcomes, Department of Communities and Justice
Monday 7 March 2022 Jubilee Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Dr Geoff Lee MP	Minister for Corrections
	Mr Brendan Thomas	Deputy Secretary, Transforming Aboriginal Outcomes, Department of Communities and Justice
	Mr Michael Tidball	Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice
	Mr Kevin Corcoran	Commissioner, Corrective Services NSW
	Ms Sandra Crawford	Assistant Commissioner, Corrective Services NSW
	Mr Luke Grant	Deputy Commissioner, Corrective Services NSW
	Mr Carlo Scasserra	Assistant Commissioner, Corrective Services NSW

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
Monday 14 March 2022 Jubilee Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Mark Coure MP	Minister for Multiculturalism and Seniors
	Mr Michael Tidball	Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice
	Mr Joseph La Posta	Chief Executive Officer, Multicultural NSW
	Ms Tanya Smyth	Director, Women NSW, Seniors and Carers, Department of Communities and Justice
Monday 16 March 2022 Macquarie Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Mark Speakman SC MP	Attorney General
	Mr Michael Tidball	Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice
	Mr Paul McKnight	Deputy Secretary, Law Reform and Legal Services, Department of Communities and Justice
	Ms Anne Campbell	Acting Deputy Secretary, Strategy, Policy and Commissioning, Department of Communities and Justice
	Ms Monique Hitter	Acting Chief Executive Officer, Legal Aid NSW
	Ms Karen Smith	NSW Crown Solicitor
	Mr Paul O'Reilly	Acting Deputy Secretary, Courts, Tribunals and Service Delivery, Department of Communities and Justice
	Ms Kathryn Boyd	Deputy Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet
Wednesday 6 April 2022 Macquarie Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Stephanie Cooke MP	Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery
	Deputy Commissioner Damien Johnston	Corporate Services, NSW State Emergency Service
	Acting Commissioner Daniel Austin	NSW State Emergency Service

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
	Acting Commissioner Megan Stiffler	Fire and Rescue NSW
	Commissioner Rob Rogers	NSW Rural Fire Service
	Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons	Resilience NSW
Wednesday 4 May 2022 Macquarie Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Paul Toole MP	Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Police
	Mr Scott Whyte	Assistant Commissioner, Police Prosecutions and Licensing Enforcement Command
	Ms Georgina Beattie	Deputy Secretary, Mining, Exploration and Geoscience, Department of Regional New South Wales
	Mr Gary Barnes	Secretary, Department of Regional NSW
	Ms Karen Webb	Commissioner, NSW Police Force
	Mr David Hudson	Deputy Commissioner, Investigations and Counter Terrorism, NSW Police Force
	Mr Michael Barnes	Commissioner, NSW Crime Commission
	Mr Chris Hanger	Deputy Secretary, Regional Development and Programs, Department of Regional NSW
	Mr David Witherdin	Deputy Secretary, Commercial and Corporate Services, Department of Regional NSW, and Chief Executive Officer, Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation
	Ms Rebecca Fox	Deputy Secretary, Regional Precincts, and Chief Executive of the Regional Growth NSW Development Corporation, Department of Regional NSW

Appendix 2 Minutes

Minutes no. 42

Wednesday 7 July 2021

Portfolio Committee No. 5 - Legal Affairs

Via videoconference at 2.02 pm

1. Members present

Mr Borsak, *Chair*

Mr Amato

Ms Jackson

Mr Khan

Mrs Maclaren-Jones

Mr Moselmane

2. Apologies

Mr Shoebridge, *Deputy Chair*

3. Draft minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Moselmane: That draft minutes no. 41 be confirmed.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 – procedural resolutions

The committee noted the Budget Estimates timetable for 2021-2022 agreed to by the House, with hearings commencing at 9.30 am and concluding by 6.00 pm, for Portfolio Committee No. 5:

Date	Portfolio
Monday 16 August 2021	Counter Terrorism and Corrections (Roberts)
Monday 23 August 2021	Attorney General and Prevention of Domestic Violence (Speakman)
Wednesday 25 August 2021	Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans (Ward)
Friday 27 August 2021	Families, Communities and Disability Services (Henskens)
Tuesday 31 August 2021	Police and Emergency Services (Elliott)

4.1 Allocation of question time and total hearing time

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 resolution each portfolio, except The Legislature, will be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm, and from 2.00 pm to 5.45 pm, with an additional 15 minutes reserved for government questions for each of the morning and afternoon sessions.

4.2 Witness requests

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Moselmane: That:

- the committee provide witness requests to the secretariat by 12.00 pm, Thursday 8 July 2021

- the secretariat to circulate a list of relevant Parliamentary Secretaries for the committee to consider whether Parliamentary Secretaries be invited to appear as a witness at the hearings
- the secretariat circulate via email a final witness list for each portfolio for the committee's agreement.

4.3 Witness appearance time

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Searle: That in correspondence to the Ministers, the committee advise that:

- the Minister [and Parliamentary Secretary] will be invited to appear from 9.30 am until 12.45 pm, with the possibility that the committee may ask the Minister to return for the afternoon session
- departmental staff will be invited to appear from 2.00 pm until 6.00 pm.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 2.19 pm, until Monday 16 August 2021, Macquarie Room, at 9.15 am (Counter Terrorism and Corrections hearing).

Emma Rogerson

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 43

Friday 13 August 2021

Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Legal Affairs

Via Webex, 11.38 am

1. Members present

Mr Borsak, *Chair*

Mr Amato

Mr Khan

Mrs Maclaren-Jones

Mr Moselmane

Mr Searle

2. Apologies

Mr Shoebridge, *Deputy Chair*

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 24 June 2021 - Letter from the Hon David Elliott MP, Minister for Police and Emergency Services to secretariat, advising Commissioner Fuller is unable to attend hearing on 31 August 2021 and that an alternate hearing date be considered
- 2 July 2021 - Letter from the Hon Shayne Mallard MLC, Government Whip, to secretariat, advising that Mr Martin will be substituting for Mrs Maclaren-Jones for the PC5 Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans hearing on 25 August 2021
- 6 July 2021 - Letter from the Hon David Elliott MP, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, to secretariat, requesting Commissioner Fuller appear via video link for the Police and Emergency Services hearing on 31 August 2021
- 19 July 2021 - Email from Ms Margaret Dobbie, Executive Assistant, NSW Crime Commissioner, NSW Crime Commission to secretariat, confirming attendance of Commissioner Michael Barnes, NSW Crime Commissioner at the Police and Emergency Services hearing on 31 August 2021

- 22 July 2021 - Email from Mr Dom Bondar, Office of Hon David Elliott MP, Minister for Police and Emergency Services to secretariat, confirming witness list for Budget Estimates 2021- 2022 initial hearing on 31 August 2021
- 23 July 2021 - Email from Ms Karen Smith, NSW Crown Solicitor, to secretariat, providing response to invitation to attend Budget Estimates hearing on 23 August 2021
- 26 July 2021 - Email from Sam Bush, Office of Hon Natalie Ward MLC, Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans to secretariat, confirming witness list for Budget Estimates 2021-2022 initial hearing on 25 August 2021
- 27 July 2021 - Email from Ms Astrid Pedersen, Office of Hon Mark Speakman MP, Attorney General and Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence, to secretariat, confirming witness list for Budget Estimates 2021-2022 hearing on 23 August 2021
- 28 July 2021 - Email from Ms Adelaide Cuneo, Office of Hon Alister Henskens MP, Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services to secretariat, confirming witness list for Budget Estimates 2021-2022 initial hearing on 27 August 2021
- 29 July 2021 - Email from Ms Alysha Hardy, Office of Ms Abigail Boyd MLC, The Greens, advising that Ms Boyd will be a participating member for PCs 2, 3 4, 5 and 7 hearings
- 30 July 2021 - Email from Ms Emily Nesbit, Office of Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections to secretariat, confirming witness list for Budget Estimates 2021-2022 initial hearing on 16 August 2021.

Sent

- 14 July 2021 - Email from the secretariat to Mr Dom Bondar, Office of the Hon David Elliott MP, Minister for Police and Emergency Services confirming that Commissioner Fuller can participate in the Budget Estimates hearing via video link
- 16 July 2021 - Email from the secretariat to the Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections, attaching witness invitation for Budget Estimates 2021-2022 - Initial Hearings
- 16 July 2021 - Email from the secretariat to the Hon Mark Speakman MP, Attorney General and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence, attaching witness invitation for Budget Estimates 2021-2022 - Initial Hearings
- 16 July 2021 - Email from the secretariat to the Hon Natalie Ward MLC, Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans, attaching witness invitation for Budget Estimates 2021-2022 - Initial Hearings
- 16 July 2021 - Email from the secretariat to the Hon Alister Henskens MP, Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services, attaching witness invitation for Budget Estimates 2021-2022 - Initial Hearings
- 16 July 2021 - Email from the secretariat to the Hon David Elliott MP, Minister for Police and Emergency Services attaching witness invitation for Budget Estimates 2021-2022 - Initial Hearings
- 16 July 2021 - Email from the secretariat to Ms Karen Smith, NSW Crown Solicitor, attaching witness invitation for Budget Estimates 2021-2022 - Initial Hearings
- 16 July 2021 - Email from the secretariat to Commissioner Michael Barnes, NSW Crime Commissioner attaching witness invitation for Budget Estimates 2021-2022 - Initial Hearings.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022

4.1 Postponement of scheduled hearings 16-31 August 2021

The committee noted:

- the public health concerns around the COVID-19 Delta variant and current Public Health Orders in Greater Sydney
- that agreement has been reached amongst Members of the Legislative Council that, as a matter of necessity, on the next sitting a motion will be moved by leave and agreed to postponing until a date to be determined the in-person budget estimates hearings scheduled for 16-31 August 2021

- the importance of ongoing parliamentary accountability and scrutiny of the executive government
- that agreement has therefore also been reached on a series of fully virtual preliminary budget estimates hearings to be held with public servant witnesses from eight portfolios.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Moselmane: That the committee postpone the following Budget Estimates 2021-2022 hearings:

- Monday 16 August 2021 – Counter Terrorism and Corrections (Roberts)
- Monday 23 August 2021 – Attorney General and Prevention of Domestic Violence (Speakman)
- Wednesday 25 August 2021 – Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans (Ward)
- Friday 27 August 2021 – Families, Communities and Disability Services (Henskens)
- Tuesday 31 August 2021 – Police and Emergency Services (Elliott).

4.2 Revised Budget Estimates 2021-2022 timetable – virtual hearing

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Moselmane: That the committee hold the following preliminary Budget Estimates hearing in a fully virtual format:

- Wednesday 1 September 2021 – Police

4.3 Allocation of question time and total hearing time

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Searle: That the portfolios of Police be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only from 9.30 am until 11.00 am, and then from 11.15 am until 12.45 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions at the end of the session, if required.

4.4 Witnesses to appear at hearings

The committee noted the limit of 4 witnesses per hearing to assist Hansard and the transcription of evidence.

The committee noted that as per the correspondence from Minister Elliott, the following previously requested witnesses were to be represented by Commissioner Fuller:

- Mr Scott Cook APM, Assistant Commissioner, Police Prosecutions and Licensing Enforcement Command, NSW Police Force
- Mr Cameron Smith, Director, Security Licensing and Enforcement Directorate, NSW Police Force
- Mr Dave Hudson APM, Deputy Commissioner, Investigations and Counter Terrorism, NSW Police Force
- Mr Mal Lanyon APM, Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Field Operations, NSW Police Force
- Mr Gavin Wood, Assistant Commissioner, Human Resources Command, NSW Police Force
- Ms Stacey Maloney, Assistant Commissioner, Communications & Security Command, NSW Police Force
- Mr Cameron Lindsay, Commander of the NSW Firearms Registry, NSW Police Force.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Searle: That the committee invite the following witnesses to give evidence at the hearing for the portfolio of Police:

- Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter, Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice
- Commissioner Michael Fuller, Commissioner, NSW Police Force
- Commissioner Michael Barnes, Commissioner, NSW Crime Commission
- Deputy Commissioner Gary Worboys, Deputy Commissioner, NSW Police Force
- Mr Mark Walton, Assistant Commissioner, Investigations and Counter Terrorism, NSW Police Force
- Mr Scott Cook APM, Assistant Commissioner, Police Prosecutions and Licensing Enforcement Command, NSW Police Force
- Mr Dave Hudson APM, Deputy Commissioner, Investigations and Counter Terrorism, NSW Police Force
- Mr Cameron Lindsay, Commander of the NSW Firearms Registry, NSW Police Force.

4.5 Livestream and recording of hearing

The committee to note that the hearing will be livestreamed via the Parliament's YouTube channel.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Khan: That the committee agree to record the hearing, and that this recording be placed on the inquiry webpage as soon as practicable after the hearing.

4.6 Virtual committee guidelines and procedural fairness

The committee noted that, to help ensure that Hansard can transcribe the hearing, witnesses and/or members should avoid speaking over each other.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 11.49 am, until 9.15 am, on Wednesday 1 September 2021 via Webex, Budget Estimates hearing — Police.

Emma Rogerson
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 44

Wednesday 1 September 2021
Portfolio Committee No. 5 - Legal Affairs
Via Webex at 9.17 am

1. Members present

Mr Borsak, *Chair*
Mr Shoebridge, *Deputy Chair*
Mr Amato
Mr Khan
Mrs Maclaren-Jones
Mr Searle
Mr Secord (substituting for Mr Moselmane)
Ms Boyd (participating)

2. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Maclaren-Jones: That draft minutes no. 42 and 43 be confirmed.

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received:

- 13 August 2021 - Email from Mr Justin Field MLC to the secretariat, advising he will be a participating member for the PC5 Police hearing on 1 September 2021
- 16 August 2021 – Email from Ms Cara Punch, Office of the Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC, Opposition Whip to the secretariat, providing Opposition substitutions and participating member advice for preliminary Budget Estimates 2021-2022
- 19 August 2021 - Email from Mr Dom Bondar, Office of Minister Elliott MP to the secretariat, confirming witness list for the PC5 Police hearing on 1 September 2021
- 27 August 2021 - Email from Mr Dom Bondar, Office of Minister Elliott MP to the secretariat, advising that Mr Cameron Lindsay, Commander of the NSW Firearms Registry, NSW Police Force, is unable to attend the PC5 Police hearing on 1 September 2021
- 30 August 2021 - Email from Mr Jacob Miller, Office of Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC to the secretariat, advising that Ms Faehrmann will be a participating member for the PC5 Police hearing on 1 September 2021 and PC6 Transport and Roads hearing on 3 September 2021.

- 31 August 2021 - Email from Ms Cara Punch, Office of the Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC, Opposition Whip, to the secretariat, advising that the Hon Walt Secord MLC will be substituting as the substantive member for the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC for the PC5 Police hearing on 1 September 2021.

Sent:

- 13 August 2021 - Email from the secretariat to the Hon David Elliott MP, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, forwarding witness invitation for preliminary Budget Estimates 2021-2022
- 30 August 2021 - Email from the secretariat, to Mr Dom Bondar, Office of Minister Elliott MP, confirming that Mr Cameron Lindsay, Commander of the NSW Firearms Registry, NSW Police Force, is excused from attending the PC5 Police hearing on 1 September 2021.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 – preliminary hearings

4.1 Order for examination of portfolios

The committee noted that it had previously resolved that the portfolio of Police be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 11.00 am, and from 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions at the end of the hearing if required.

4.2 Allocation of questioning

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Secord: That the sequence of questioning at the hearing be divided between opposition and crossbench members, in that order, for 20 minute rounds each, with any remaining time to be split equally.

4.3 Photo of committee for social media

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Searle: That the secretariat take a screenshot of the committee during its meeting and/or the hearing for the purposes of publishing on social media.

4.4 Lodgement of supplementary questions

The committee noted that the transcript of evidence is expected to be available 2 business days after the hearing.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Searle: That supplementary questions be lodged with the secretariat by 5.00 pm within two business days following receipt of the transcript.

4.5 Public hearing: Police

The committee proceeded to take evidence in public.

The departmental witnesses were admitted via video link.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings, virtual hearing etiquette and other matters.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter, Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice
- Commissioner Michael Fuller, NSW Police Force
- Commissioner Michael Barnes, NSW Crime Commission.

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

The departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Deputy Commissioner Gary Worboys, NSW Police Force
- Mr Mark Walton, Assistant Commissioner, Investigations and Counter Terrorism, NSW Police Force
- Mr Scott Cook APM, Assistant Commissioner, Police Prosecutions and Licensing Enforcement Command, NSW Police Force
- Mr Dave Hudson APM, Deputy Commissioner, Investigations and Counter Terrorism, NSW Police Force.

The departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 12.47 pm.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 12.49 pm, *Sine die*.

Sarah Dunn

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 45

Wednesday 13 October 2021

Portfolio Committee No.5 – Legal Affairs

McKell Room, Parliament House, 2.18 pm

1. Members present

Mr Amato (via teleconference)

Mr Khan

Mrs Maclaren-Jones

Mr Moselmane

Mr Searle

2. Apologies

Mr Borsak, *Chair*

Mr Shoebridge, *Deputy Chair*

3. Election of Acting Chair

Clerk noted the absence of both the Chair and Deputy Chair for the meeting.

The Clerk called for nominations for a member to act as Chair for the purpose of the meeting.

Mr Khan moved: That Mr Searle be elected Chair of the Committee.

There being no further nomination, the Clerk declared Mr Searle elected Chair.

4. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Maclaren-Jones: That draft minutes no. 44 be confirmed.

5. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received:

- 10 August 2021– Letter from the Hon Mark Speakman MP, Attorney General and Minister for Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence, to the secretariat, providing further information to Answers to Questions on Notice provided during Budget Estimates 2020-2021.

Sent:

- 9 September 2021 – Email from the secretariat, to the Hon David Elliott MP, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, forwarding transcript of evidence with questions on notice highlighted and supplementary questions
- 9 September 2021 - Email from the secretariat, to Commissioner Michael Barnes, NSW Crime Commissioner, forwarding transcript of evidence with questions on notice highlighted and supplementary questions.

6. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022

6.1 Answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions – preliminary hearings

The committee noted that the following answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions were published by the committee clerk under the authorisation of the resolution appointing the committee:

- answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from the Hon David Elliott MP, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, received 30 September 2021
- answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from Mr Michael Barnes, NSW Crime Commissioner, received 30 September 2021.

6.2 Supplementary hearings – procedural resolutions

The committee noted the Budget Estimates timetable for 2021-2022 agreed to by the House, with hearings commencing at 9.30 am and concluding by 5.30 pm, for Portfolio Committee No. 5:

Date	Portfolio	No. of possible witnesses in person
Friday 29 October 2021	Families, Communities and Disability Services (Henskens)	3
Friday 29 October 2021	Police and Emergency Services (Elliott)	3
Monday 1 November 2021	Attorney General and Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence (Speakman)	3
Friday 5 November 2021	Counter Terrorism and Corrections (Roberts)	3
Friday 5 November 2021	Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans	3

6.3 Allocation of question time and total hearing time

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 resolution the below portfolios will be examined as follows:

- Families, Communities and Disability Services – by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 11.00 am, and from 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions from 12.45 pm to 1.00 pm, if required.
- Police and Emergency Services – by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm, and from 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions from 5.15 pm to 5.30 pm, if required.
- Attorney General and Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence – by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 11.00 am, and from 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions from 12.45 pm to 1.00 pm, if required.
- Counter Terrorism and Corrections – by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 11.00 am, and from 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions from 12.45 pm to 1.00 pm, if required.
- Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans – by Opposition and Crossbench members only, 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm, and from 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions from 5.15 pm to 5.30 pm, if required.

6.4 Witness requests

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Moselmane: That the committee nominate witnesses to be invited by 5 pm, Thursday 14 October 2021, and if the witnesses are requested to appear in person or via Webex.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Searle: That the following witnesses be invited to appear via Webex:

- Ms Caroline Mackness, Director, Office of Veterans Affairs (Veterans Affairs)
- Officer who oversees the veterans employment program at OVA (Veterans Affairs)
- Ms Catherine D'Elia, Deputy Secretary, Courts, Tribunals and Service Delivery, Department of Communities and Justice (Attorney General and Prevention of Domestic Violence)

7. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 2.21 pm, until Friday 29 October 2021, 9.15 am, Macquarie Room, Parliament House – Budget Estimates hearing – Families, Communities and Disability Services.

Emma Rogerson
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 46

Friday 29 October 2021

Portfolio Committee No. 5 - Legal Affairs

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9.17 am

1. Members present

Mr Shoebridge, *Deputy Chair* (from 9.17 am until 11.00 am, and then from 12.07 pm)

Mr Amato *via Webex*

Mr Khan

Mrs Maclaren-Jones

Mr Moselmane

Mr Searle

Ms Boyd (participating, from 9.47 am)

Ms Jackson (participating, from 9.24 am)

Ms Moriarty (participating, from 9.17 am until 11.00 am)

2. Apologies

Mr Borsak, *Chair*

3. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Moselmane: That draft minutes no. 45 be confirmed.

4. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 14 October 2021 - Letter from the Hon Shayne Mallard MLC, Government Whip, to the secretariat, advising that Mr Martin will be substituting for Mrs Maclaren-Jones for the PC5 Counter Terrorism and Corrections hearing on 5 November 2021
- 18 October 2021 - Email from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC, to the secretariat, advising she will be a participating member for the PC5 hearings on 29 October 2021 and 1 November 2021
- 19 October 2021 - Email from Ms Cara Punch, Office of Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC, Opposition Whip, to the secretariat, providing Opposition substitutions and participating member advice for Budget Estimates 2021-2022 supplementary hearings

- 20 October 2021 - Email from Mr Dom Bondar, Office of the Hon David Elliott MP, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, to the secretariat, confirming witness list for Budget Estimates 2021-2022 supplementary hearing on 29 October 2021
- 21 October 2021 - Email from Mr Chris Spence, Office of Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections, to the secretariat, confirming witness list for Budget Estimates 2021-2022 supplementary hearing on 5 November 2021
- 21 October 2021 - Email from Mr Patrick Wynne, Office of Hon Mark Speakman SC MP, Attorney General, Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence, to the secretariat, confirming witness list for Budget Estimates 2021-2022 supplementary hearing on 1 November 2021
- 21 October 2021 - Email from Mr Chris Spence, Office of Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections, to the secretariat, advising that Ms Simone Walker has left the Department of Communities and Justice, and that Ms Pia Van De Zandt, Acting Executive Director, Strategy and Programs, will attend the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 hearing on 5 November 2021
- 21 October 2021 - Email from Mr Patrick Wynne, Office of Hon Mark Speakman SC MP, Attorney General, Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence, to the secretariat, advising that Ms Catherine D'Elia and Mr Paul McKnight will be attending the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 hearing in person on 1 November 2021
- 21 October 2021 - Email from Mr Jacob Miller, Office of Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC, to the secretariat, advising that Ms Faehrmann will be a participating member for the PC5 Police and Emergency Services hearing on 29 October 2021
- 22 October 2021 - Email from Mr David Tricca, Office of the Hon Natalie Ward MLC, Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans, to the secretariat, confirming witness list for Budget Estimates 2021-2022 supplementary hearing on 5 November 2021
- 22 October 2021 - Email from Ms Adelaide Cuneo, Office of the Hon Alister Henskens MP, Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services, confirming witness list for Budget Estimates 2021-2022 supplementary hearing on 29 October 2021
- 22 October 2021 - Email from Ms Cara Punch, Office of Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC, Opposition Whip, to the secretariat, providing updated Opposition substitutions and participating member advice for Budget Estimates 2021-2022 supplementary hearings
- 22 October 2021 - Email from Ms Alysha Hardy, Office of Ms Abigail Boyd MLC, to the secretariat, advising that Ms Boyd will be a participating member for the PC5 Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans hearing on 5 November 2021
- 25 October 2021 - Email from Mr Dom Bondar, Office of the Hon David Elliott MP, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, advising that Minister Elliott and Commissioner Fuller will be appearing virtually
- 25 October 2021 - Email from Ms Helen Samardzic, Acting Manager, Ministerial and Parliamentary Services, Law Reform and Legal Services, Department of Communities and Justice, to the secretariat, proposing Ms Catherine D'Elia, Acting Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice is not called as a witness for the PC 5 Police and Emergency Services hearing
- 26 October 2021 - Email from Ms Shani Murphy, Office of the Hon Shayne Mallard MLC, Government Whip, advising that Mr Amato will be participating virtually on all Budget Estimates 2021-2022 hearings that he is a member of
- 26 October 2021 - Email from Ms Senada Bjelic, Office of the Hon Robert Borsak MLC, to the secretariat, providing an apology for the Chair for the PC5 Families, Communities and Disability Services hearing on 29 October 2021.

Sent

- 18 October 2021 - Email from the secretariat, to the Hon Alister Henskens MP, Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services, forwarding witness invitation for supplementary Budget Estimates 2021-2022
- 18 October 2021 - Email from the secretariat, to the Hon David Elliott MP, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, forwarding witness invitation for supplementary Budget Estimates 2021-2022

- 18 October 2021 - Email from the secretariat, to the Hon Mark Speakman MP, Attorney General and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence, forwarding witness invitation for supplementary Budget Estimates 2021-2022
- 18 October 2021 - Email from the secretariat, to the Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections, forwarding witness invitation for supplementary Budget Estimates 2021-2022
- 18 October 2021 - Email from the secretariat, to the Hon Natalie Ward MLC, Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans, forwarding witness invitation for supplementary Budget Estimates 2021-2022
- 21 October 2021 - Email from the secretariat, to Mr Chris Spence, Office of Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections, clarifying the attendance of Ms Simone Walker, Deputy Secretary, Strategy, Policy and Commissioning, Department of Communities and Justice, at the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 hearing on 5 November 2021
- 21 October 2021 - Email from the secretariat, to Mr Patrick Wynne, Office of the Hon Mark Speakman SC MP, Attorney General and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence, clarifying which 2 witnesses will be attending the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 hearing in person on 1 November 2021
- 22 October 2021 – Email from the secretariat, to the Hon Natalie Ward MLC, Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans, requesting witness nominations for supplementary Budget Estimates 2021-2022
- 22 October 2021 – Email from the secretariat, to the Hon Alister Henskens MP, Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services requesting witness nominations for supplementary Budget Estimates 2021-2022
- 26 October 2021 - Letter from the Hon Robert Borsak MLC, Committee Chair, to the Hon David Elliott MP, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, regarding the attendance of Minister Elliott and Commissioner Fuller at the PC 5 Police and Emergency Services hearing on 29 October 2021.

5. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 – supplementary hearings

5.1 Order for examination of portfolios

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 resolution the portfolios of Families, Communities and Disability Services, be examined by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 12.45 pm with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions from 12.45 pm to 1.00 pm, if required.

5.2 Live streaming and recording of hearing

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Searle: That the committee publish all recordings of Budget Estimates 2021-2022 supplementary hearings on the Parliament's YouTube channel.

5.3 Election of Deputy Chair

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Moselmane: That, in the absence of the Deputy Chair, Mr Searle be elected as acting Deputy Chair for the purpose of the meeting.

5.4 Witnesses – Police and Emergency Services hearing

The committee noted the correspondence from the office of the Acting Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice, dated 28 October 2021, requesting to be taken off the witness list for the Police and Emergency Services hearing on 29 October 2021.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Moselmane: That the Deputy Chair, on behalf of the committee, write to Ms Catherine D'Elia, Acting Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice advising that:

- the committee finds it unacceptable that Ms D'Elia or equivalent senior public servant from the Department of Communities and Justice will not be in attendance at the Police and Emergency Services hearing on 29 October 2021

- the committee encourages Ms D'Elia or equivalent senior public servant from the Department of Communities and Justice to attend the Police and Emergency Services hearing on 29 October 2021 from 2.00 pm until 5.30 pm in person
- in the absence of Ms D'Elia or equivalent senior public servant from the Department of Communities and Justice the committee is of the mind to hold a further supplementary hearing before the end of the calendar year to ensure the attendance of a departmental representative.

5.5 Public hearing: Families, Communities and Disability Services

Departmental witnesses were admitted.

The Hon Alister Henskens MP, Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services, was 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 witnesses were sworn:

- Ms Catherine D'Elia, Acting Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice (in person)
- Ms Simone Czech, Deputy Secretary, Child Protection and Permanency, District and Youth Justice Services, Department of Communities and Justice (in person)
- Mr Paul Vevers, Deputy Secretary, Housing, Disability and District Services, Department of Communities and Justice (in person)
- Ms Anne Campbell, Acting Deputy Secretary, Strategy, Policy and Commissioning, Department of Communities and Justice (via WebEx)
- Mr Paul O'Reilly, Executive Director, Youth Justice, Department of Communities and Justice (via WebEx)

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Families, Communities and Disability Services open for examination.

The Minister and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

The Minister withdrew at 12.48 pm.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 12.48 pm.

6. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 12.49 pm, until 1.45 pm, Friday 29 October 2021, Macquarie Room, Budget Estimates 2021-2022 hearing - Police and Emergency Services.

Vanessa O'Loan
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 47

Friday 29 October 2021

Portfolio Committee No. 5 - Legal Affairs

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 1.53 pm

1. Members presentMr Borsak, *Chair*Mr Shoebridge, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Amato (via WebEx)

Mr Khan

Mrs Maclaren-Jones

Mr Searle

Mr Secord (substituting for Mr Moselmane, until 3.09 pm)

Ms Boyd (participating, from 3.47 pm)

Mr Buttigieg (participating)

Ms Fachrman (participating, from 3.18 pm until 4.20 pm)

2. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 – supplementary hearings**2.1 Order for examination of portfolios**

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 resolution the portfolio of Police and Emergency Services, be examined by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 2.00 pm to 5.15 pm with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions from 5.15 pm to 5.30 pm, if required.

2.2 Public hearing: Police and Emergency Services

Departmental witnesses were admitted.

The Hon David Elliott MP, Minister for Police and Emergency Services was 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 Chair also reminded Ms Catherine D'Elia, Acting Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice, that she did not need to be sworn, as she had been sworn at another Budget Estimates hearing for the same committee.

The following witnesses were sworn:

- Commissioner Michael Fuller APM, Commissioner, New South Wales Police Force (in person)
- Commissioner Paul Baxter, Commissioner, Fire and Rescue NSW (via teleconference)
- Commissioner Carlene York APM, Commissioner, NSW State Emergency Service (via teleconference)
- Commissioner Rob Rogers AFSM, Commissioner, NSW Rural Fire Service (via teleconference)
- Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM, Commissioner, Resilience NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet (via teleconference)
- Commissioner Michael Barnes, Commissioner, NSW Crime Commission (via Webex)
- Deputy Commissioner Gary Worboys APM, State Emergency Operation Controller (SEOCN) and Deputy Commissioner, New South Wales Police Force (via teleconference)
- Assistant Commissioner Mark Walton APM, Assistant Commissioner, Counter Terrorism and Special Tactics Command, New South Wales Police Force (via Webex)
- Mr Cameron Lindsay, Commander, NSW Firearms Registry, New South Wales Police Force (via teleconference)

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Police and Emergency Services open for examination.

The Minister and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

Mr Shoebridge tabled the following document:

- NSW Police Force Notification Letter – Suspect Target Management Plan (STMP).

The Minister withdrew at 5.16 pm.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 5.16 pm.

2.3 Tabled document

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Shoebridge: That the committee accept and publish the following document tabled during the Police and Emergency Services hearing held on Friday 29 October 2021:

- NSW Police Force Notification Letter – Suspect Target Management Plan (STMP), tabled by Mr David Shoebridge MLC.

2.4 Non-publication order

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Searle: That:

- Commissioner Michael Fuller, New South Wales Police Force, be requested to provide a sealed copy of the non-publication order in relation to Operation Dominion
- the committee review the matters discussed in relation to Operation Dominion on receipt of the transcript from the Police and Emergency Services hearing held on Friday 29 October 2021.

3. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5.21 pm, until 9.15 am, Monday 1 November 2021, Jubilee Room, Budget Estimates 2021-2022 hearing - Attorney General and Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence.

Rhia Victorino

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 48

Monday 1 November 2021

Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Legal Affairs

Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.17 am

1. Members present

Mr Borsak, *Chair*

Mr Shoebridge, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Amato (via WebEx)

Mr Khan

Mrs Maclaren-Jones

Mr Moselmane

Mr Searle

Ms Boyd (participating, from 10.11 am until 11.05 am)

2. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 28 October 2021 - Email from Mr Dom Bondar, Office of the Hon David Elliott MP, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, to the secretariat, advising that Minister Elliott and Commissioner Michael Fuller APM, NSW Police Force, will appear in person at the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 PC5 Police and Emergency Services hearing on 29 October 2021
- 28 October 2021 - Email from Ms Cara Punch, Office of the Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC, Opposition Whip, to the secretariat, advising that Ms Moriarty will no longer be a participating member at the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 PC5 Attorney General and Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence hearing on 1 November 2021.

Sent

- 28 October 2021 - Email from the secretariat, to Mr Dom Bondar, Office of the Hon David Elliott MP, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, advising that the committee have requested the attendance of Ms Catherine D'Elia, Acting Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice, in lieu of Mr Coutts-Trotter who is no longer with the department at the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 PC5 Police and Emergency Services hearing on 29 October 2021.

3. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 – supplementary hearings

3.1 Order for examination of portfolios

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 resolution the portfolios of Attorney General and Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence, be examined by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 12.45 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions from 12.45 pm to 1.00 pm, if required.

3.2 Public hearing: Attorney General and Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence

Departmental witnesses were admitted.

Attorney General Mark Speakman SC MP, and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence was 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 Chair also reminded the following witnesses that they did not need to be sworn, as they had been sworn at another Budget Estimates hearing for the same committee:

- Ms Catherine D'Elia, Acting Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice
- Ms Anne Campbell, Acting Deputy Secretary, Strategy, Policy and Commissioning, Department of Communities and Justice.

The following witnesses were sworn:

- Mr Paul McKnight, Deputy Secretary, Law Reform and Legal Services, Department of Communities and Justice (in person)
- Mr Brendan Thomas, Chief Executive Officer, Legal Aid NSW (via WebEx)
- Ms Karen Smith, NSW Crown Solicitor (via WebEx)

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Attorney General and Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence open for examination.

The Attorney General and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

Mr Searle tabled the following documents:

- Email from a concerned public servant dated 28 January 2021
- Dispute of Privilege - Order for Papers – Monaro Farming Systems – Further order Resolution of 23 June 2021, received 4 August 2021, and other documents
- Crown Solicitor's advice dated 22 April 2021 entitled "Whether a claim of legal professional privilege is available for a document sought under Standing Order 52".

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 12.45 pm.

3.3 Tendered documents

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Shoebridge: That the committee accept and publish the following documents tendered during the Attorney General and Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence hearing held on Friday 1 November 2021:

- Email from a concerned public servant dated 28 January 2021, tabled by Mr Adam Searle MLC
- Dispute of Privilege - Order for Papers – Monaro Farming Systems – Further order Resolution of 23 June 2021, received 4 August 2021, and other documents, tabled by Mr Adam Searle MLC
- Crown Solicitor's advice dated 22 April 2021 entitled "Whether a claim of legal professional privilege is available for a document sought under Standing Order 52", tabled by Mr Adam Searle MLC.

4. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 12.47 pm, until 9.15 am, Friday 5 November 2021, Macquarie Room, Budget Estimates 2021-2022 hearing - Counter Terrorism and Corrections.

Shaza Barbar

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 49

Friday 5 November 2021

Portfolio Committee No. 5 - Legal Affairs

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9.18 am

1. Members present

Mr Borsak, *Chair*

Mr Shoebridge, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Amato

Mr Khan

Mr Martin (substituting for Mrs Maclaren Jones)

Ms Moriarty (substituting for Mr Searle)

Mr Secord (substituting for Mr Moselmane)

2. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 28 October 2021 – Email from Mr Dom Bondar, Office of the Hon David Elliott MP, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, to the secretariat, requesting that the secretariat liaise with Ms Catherine D’Elia, Acting Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice, regarding her attendance as a witness for the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 PC5 Police and Emergency Services hearing on 29 October 2021
- 28 October 2021 - Email from Mr Dom Bondar, Office of the Hon David Elliott MP, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, requesting that Ms Catherine D’Elia, Acting Secretary, Department of

Communities and Justice, be removed as a witness for the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 PC5 Police and Emergency Services hearing on 29 October 2021

- 29 October 2021 - Email from Ms Karen Smith, NSW Crown Solicitor, to the secretariat, providing advice about her appearance before the committee for the Attorney General and Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence hearing on 1 November 2021
- 29 October 2021 - Email from Mr Angus Huntsdale, Office of Ms Catherine D'Elia, Acting Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice, to the secretariat, confirming the Ms D'Elia will attend the Budget Estimates PC5 Police and Emergency Services hearing in person on 29 October 2021.

Sent

- 28 October 2021 - Email from the secretariat, to Ms Catherine D'Elia, Acting Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice, requesting attendance as a witness for the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 PC5 Police and Emergency Services hearing on 29 October 2021
- 29 October 2021 - Letter from Mr David Shoebridge MLC, Deputy Chair of the Committee, to Ms Catherine D'Elia, Acting Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice, requesting that she, or the next most senior public servant from the Department of Communities and Justice attend the Budget Estimates PC5 Police and Emergency Services hearing on 29 October 2021
- 3 November 2021 – Letter from Mr Robert Borsak MLC, Chair of Committee, to Commissioner Michael Fuller, NSW Police Force, requesting provision of a sealed copy of the non-publication order in relation to Operation Dominion.

3. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 – supplementary hearings

3.1 Order for examination of portfolios

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 resolution the portfolios of Counter Terrorism and Corrections, be examined by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 12.45 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions from 12.45 pm to 1.00 pm, if required.

3.2 Public hearing: Counter Terrorism and Corrections

Departmental witnesses were admitted.

The Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections, was 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 Chair also reminded Ms Catherine D'Elia, Acting Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice that she did not need to be sworn, as she had been sworn at another Budget Estimates hearing for the same committee.

The following witnesses were sworn:

- Mr Kevin Corcoran, Acting Commissioner, Corrective Services NSW, Department of Communities and Justice (in person)
- Ms Pia Van De Zandt, Acting Executive Director, Strategy and Programs, Department of Communities and Justice (via WebEx)
- Ms Sandra Crawford, Assistant Commissioner, Community Corrections, Corrective Services NSW, Department of Communities and Justice (via WebEx)
- Mr Luke Grant, Deputy Commissioner, Corrective Services NSW, Department of Communities and Justice (via WebEx)
- Mr David Frearson, Chairman State Parole Authority, Department of Communities and Justice (via WebEx).

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Counter Terrorism and Corrections open for examination.

The Minister and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

Mr Secord tabled the following document:

- Correspondence from the Honourable Natalie Ward, Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans, in relation to Hizb ut-Tahrir Australia.

The Minister withdrew at 12.45pm.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 12.46pm.

4. **Adjournment**

The committee adjourned at 12.48 pm, until 1.45 pm, Friday 5 November 2021, Macquarie Room, Budget Estimates 2021-2022 hearing - Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans.

Stewart Smith

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 50

Friday 5 November 2021

Portfolio Committee No. 5 - Legal Affairs

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 1.55 pm

1. **Members present**

Mr Borsak, *Chair*

Mr Amato

Ms Boyd (participating via Webex)

Mr D'Adam (substituting for Mr Searle)

Mr Khan

Mrs Maclaren-Jones

Mr Moselmane

2. **Apologies**

Mr Shoebridge, *Deputy Chair*

3. **Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 – supplementary hearings**

3.1 **Order for examination of portfolios**

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 resolution the portfolios of Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans, be examined by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 2.00 pm to 5.15 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions from 5.15 pm to 5.30 pm, if required.

3.2 **Election of Acting Deputy Chair**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Khan: That in the absence of the Deputy Chair, Mr Moselmane be elected as acting Deputy Chair for the purpose of the meeting.

3.3 **Public hearing: Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans**

Departmental witnesses were admitted.

The Hon Natalie Ward MLC, Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans, was 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 Chair also reminded Ms Catherine D'Elia, Acting Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice that she did not need to be sworn, as she had been sworn at another Budget Estimates hearing for the same committee.

The following witnesses were sworn:

- Ms Karen Jones, Chief Executive Officer, Office of Sport (in person)
- Mr Joseph La Posta, Chief Executive Officer, Multicultural NSW (in person)
- Mr Simon Draper, Chief Executive Officer, Infrastructure NSW (via WebEx)
- Ms Kerrie Mather, Chief Executive Officer, Venues NSW (via WebEx)
- Ms Caroline Mackaness, Director, Office of Veterans Affairs (via WebEx)
- Ms Tanya Smyth, Director, Women NSW, Seniors and Carers (via WebEx)

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans open for examination.

The Minister and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

The Minister withdrew at 4.45pm

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 4.45pm.

4. **Adjournment**

The committee adjourned at 4.45 pm, *Sine die*.

Anthony Hanna
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 51

Tuesday 22 February 2022
Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Legal Affairs
Room 1136, Parliament House, 2.00 pm

1. **Members present**

Mr Borsak, *Chair*
Mr Shoebridge, *Deputy Chair*
Mr Moselmane
Mr Searle

2. **Apologies**

Mr Amato, Mr Martin and Mr Poulos.

3. **Previous minutes**

Resolved on the motion of Mr Searle :That draft minutes nos. 46, 47, 48, 49 and 50 be confirmed.

4. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received:

- 8 December 2021 – Letter from Ms Pia van de Zandt, A/Executive Director, Strategy and Programs, Department of Communities and Justice to Chair, providing a clarification to her evidence given at the hearing on 5 November 2021
- 10 December 2021 – Letter from Commissioner Mick Fuller, NSW Police Force to Chair, providing response to correspondence dated 3 November 2021 regarding Operation Dominion.

Sent:

- 4 November 2021 – Email from the secretariat, to the Hon Alister Henskens MP, Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services, forwarding transcript of evidence with questions on notice highlighted and supplementary questions
- 5 November 2021 - Email from the secretariat, to the Hon David Elliott MP, Minister For Police and Emergency Services, forwarding transcript of evidence with questions on notice highlighted and supplementary questions
- 9 November 2021 - Email from the secretariat, to the Hon Mark Speakman MP, Attorney General and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence, forwarding transcript of evidence with questions on notice highlighted and supplementary questions
- 18 November 2021 - Email from the secretariat, to the Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections, forwarding transcript of evidence with questions on notice highlighted and supplementary questions
- 22 November 2021 - Email from the secretariat, to the Hon Natalie Ward MLC, Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans, forwarding transcript of evidence with questions on notice highlighted and supplementary questions
- 29 November 2021 – Email from the secretariat, to Mr Dom Bondar, Office of the Hon David Elliott MP, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, following up request for provision of a sealed copy of the non-publication order in relation to Operation Dominion.

5. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022

The committee noted the Budget Estimates timetable for 2021-2022 as per the Notice of Motion for additional budget estimates hearings dated 11 February 2022 from the office of the leader of the Government, with hearings commencing at 9.30 am and concluding by 5.30 pm, for Portfolio Committee No. 5:

- Emergency- Services and Resilience, Monday 28 February 2022, Macquarie Room
- Families & Communities, Disability Services, Wednesday 2 March 2022, Macquarie Room
- Corrections, Monday 7 March 2022, Jubilee Room
- Deputy Premier, Regional NSW, Police, 9 March 2022, Jubilee Room
- Multiculturalism & Seniors, 14 March 2022, Jubilee Room
- Attorney General, 16 March 2022, Jubilee Room

5.1 Witnesses, allocation of question time and total hearing time

The committee noted as per the Notice of Motion for additional budget estimates hearings that each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 11.00 am, and from 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, then from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm, and from 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions at the end of the morning and afternoon session.

5.2 Witnesses to appear at hearings

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Searle: That witnesses that appeared at the previous budget estimates hearings be invited to attend the additional budget estimates hearings and that members provide the secretariat with any additional witnesses as follows:

- the committee not invite parliamentary secretaries to appear as a witness at the hearings
- Emergency-Services and Resilience – additional witnesses to be provided to the secretariat by COB Wednesday 23 February 2022
- additional witnesses for all other hearings to be provided to the secretariat by 12.00 pm on Thursday 24 February 2022.

5.3 Witness appearance time

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Searle: That the Minister appear for the morning session from 9.30 am until 12.45 pm and that departmental staff appear from 9.30 am until 5.30 pm.

5.4 Recording of hearing

Resolved, on the Mr Shoebridge : That the additional Budget Estimates hearings be recorded and that these recordings be placed on the inquiry webpage as soon as practicable after the hearing.

5.4 Answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions – supplementary hearings

The committee resolved to defer discussion on keeping confidential Annexure A to Answers to Questions taken on Notice provided by the Hon David Elliott MP, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, as per the request of the author, to a subsequent meeting, date yet to be determined.

6. Other business

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Shoebridge: That in the event that the Chair and Deputy Chair were absent in a Budget Estimates hearing, Mr Searle act as Chair.

7. Next meeting

9.15 am on Monday 28 February 2022 – Budget Estimates Hearing – Portfolio Committee 5.

Donna Glover
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 52

Monday 28 February 2022
 Portfolio Committee No. 5 - Regional NSW and Stronger Communities
 Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9.30 am

1. Members present

Mr Shoebridge, *A/Chair*
 Mr Buttigieg (*substituting for Mr Moselmane*)
 Mr Martin
 Mr Searle

2. Apologies

Mr Amato
 Mr Borsak
 Mr Poulos

3. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Searle: That draft minutes no. 51 be confirmed.

4. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 24 February 2022 - Email from Ms Kaycie Bradford, Office of the Hon Steph Cooke MP, Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, nominating witnesses to appear at the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearing
- 28 February 2022 – Email from Ms Kaycie Bradford, Office of the Hon Steph Cooke MP, Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, requesting that the hearing for Minister Cooke and Emergency Services and Resilience be postponed due to the flooding emergency in northern NSW.

Sent

- 24 February 2022 - Email from the secretariat, to the Hon Steph Cooke MP, Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, issuing witness invitations for the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearings.

5. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 –additional hearings

5.1 Postponement of hearing

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Searle: That the hearing scheduled for 28 February 2022 (Minister Cooke) be postponed until a date to be confirmed.

6. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 9.25 am until 9.15 am, Wednesday 2 March 2022, Macquarie Room, Budget Estimates hearing - Families and Communities, Disability Services

Stewart Smith
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 53

Wednesday 2 March 2022

Portfolio Committee No. 5 - Regional NSW and Stronger Communities

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9.17 am

1. Members present

Mr Shoebridge, *Acting Chair* (until 4.36 pm)

Mr Searle, *Acting Deputy Chair*

Mr Barrett

Ms Boyd (*participating*) (until 3.18 pm)

Ms Jackson (*substituting for Mr Moselmane until 4.18 pm*)

Mr Martin (*substituting for Mr Amato*)

Ms Moriarty (*participating until 4.18 pm, substituting for Mr Moselmane from 4.18 pm*)

2. Apologies

Mr Borsak

Mr Poulos

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 28 February 2022 - Email from John Brazier, Office of the Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC, Minister for Families and Communities and Minister for Disability Services, nominating witnesses to appear at the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearing

Sent:

- 25 February 2022 - Email from the secretariat, to the Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones, Minister for Families and Communities and Minister for Disability Services, issuing witness invitations for the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearing.

4. Committee membership

The committee noted correspondence from the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council discharging Mr Taylor from the committee and appointing Mr Barrett.

5. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 – supplementary hearings**5.1 Order for examination of portfolios**

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 resolution each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 11.00 am, and from 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, then from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm, and from 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions at the end of the morning and afternoon sessions, if required.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Searle: That questioning alternate between Opposition and Crossbench members in 20 minute allocations.

5.2 Public hearing: Families and Communities, Disability Services

Departmental witnesses were admitted.

The Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC, Minister for Families and Communities and Minister for Disability Services, was 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 Chair also reminded the following witnesses that they did not need to be sworn, as they had been sworn at another Budget Estimates hearing for the same committee.

- Ms Simone Czech, Deputy Secretary, Permanency, District and Youth Justice Services, Department of Communities and Justice
- Mr Paul Vevers, Deputy Secretary, Housing, Disability and District Services, Department of Communities and Justice
- Ms Anne Campbell, Acting Deputy Secretary, Strategy, Policy and Commissioning, Department of Communities and Justice
- Mr Paul O'Reilly, Executive Director, Youth Justice, Department of Communities and Justice
- Mr Brendan Thomas, Deputy Secretary, Transforming Aboriginal Outcomes, Department of Communities and Justice

The following witness was sworn:

- Mr Michael Tidball, Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Families and Communities, Disability Services open for examination.

The Minister and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

The Minister withdrew at 12.47 pm.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 4:54 pm.

6. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 4:54 pm, until 9.15 am, Monday 7 March 2022, Jubilee Room, Budget Estimates hearing — Corrections

Allison Stowe

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 54

Monday 7 March 2022

Portfolio Committee No. 5 - Regional NSW and Stronger Communities

Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9.15 am

1. Members present

Mr Shoebridge, *Chair*

Mr Amato

Mr Barrett

Ms Moriarty (*substituting for Mr Moselmane*)

Mr Moselmane (*substituting for Mr Searle*)

Mr Searle (*participating via Webex, until 2.45 pm*)

2. Apologies

Mr Borsak

Mr Poulos

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 27 February 2022 - Email from Kaycie Bradford, Office of the Hon Steph Cooke MP, Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, to the secretariat, advising of a developing flood and storm emergency situation in NSW and requesting a change to the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearing timetable on 28 February 2022
- 28 February 2022 - Email from Kaycie Bradford, Office of the Hon Steph Cooke MP, Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, to the secretariat, requesting cancellation of the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearing on 28 February 2022
- 1 March 2022 - Email from Angus Webber, Office of the Hon Paul Toole MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional NSW, Minister for Police, nominating witnesses to appear at the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearing
- 1 March 2022 - Email from Felix Fierro, Office of the Hon Dr Geoff Lee MP, Minister for Corrections, nominating witnesses to appear at the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearing
- 1 March 2022 - Email from Clayton Hopper, Office of the Hon Mark Coure MP, Minister for Multiculturalism and Minister for Seniors, nominating witnesses to appear at the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearing
- 1 March 2022 - Email from Felix Fierro, Office of the Hon Dr Geoff Lee MP, Minister for Corrections, nominating an additional witness to appear at the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearing
- 2 March 2022 - Email from Felix Fierro, Office of the Hon Dr Geoff Lee MP, Minister for Corrections, nominating an additional witness to appear at the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearing

- 3 March 2022 - Email from Angus Webber, Office of the Hon Paul Toole MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional NSW, Minister for Police, advising Ms Georgina Gold, Principal Policy Officer, Firearms Registry, has been contacted to appear at the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearing on 9 March 2022
- 3 March 2022 - Email from Isabella McDougall, Office of the Hon Paul Toole MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional NSW, Minister for Police, requesting Ms Georgina Gold, Principal Policy Officer, Firearms Registry, be excused from appearing at the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearing on 9 March 2022.

Sent:

- 25 February 2022 - Email from the secretariat, to the Hon Geoff Lee MP, Minister for Corrections, issuing witness invitations for the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearing
- 25 February 2022 - Email from the secretariat, to the Hon Paul Toole MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional NSW, Minister for Police, issuing witness invitations for the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearing
- 25 February 2022 - Email from the secretariat, to the Hon Mark Coure MP, Minister for Multiculturalism and Seniors, issuing witness invitations for the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearing
- 25 February 2022 - Email from the secretariat, to the Hon Mark Speakman MP, Attorney General, issuing witness invitations for the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearing
- 25 February 2022 - Email from the secretariat, to Kaycie Bradford, Office of the Hon Steph Cooke MP, Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, excusing Mr Tidball from appearing at the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearing on 28 February 2022
- 27 February 2022 - Email from the secretariat, to Kaycie Bradford, Office of the Hon Steph Cooke MP, Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, advising of an in principle timetable change to the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearing on 28 February 2022
- 28 February 2022 - Email from the secretariat, to Kaycie Bradford, Office of the Hon Steph Cooke MP, Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, advising cancellation of the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearing on 28 February 2022
- 2 March 2022 - Email from the secretariat, to the Hon Mark Speakman MP, Attorney General, issuing witness invitations for the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearing
- 3 March 2022 - Email from the secretariat, to Angus Webber, Office of the Hon Paul Toole MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional NSW, Minister for Police, requesting the attendance of Ms Georgina Gold, Principal Policy Officer, Firearms Registry, at the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearing on 9 March 2022.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 – supplementary hearings

4.1 Order for examination of portfolios

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 resolution each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 11.00 am, and from 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, then from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm, and from 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions at the end of the morning and afternoon sessions, if required.

4.2 Public hearing: Corrections

Departmental witnesses were admitted.

The Hon Dr Geoff Lee MP, Minister for Corrections, was 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 Chair also reminded the following witnesses that they did not need to be sworn, as they had been sworn at another Budget Estimates hearing for the same committee.

- Mr Michael Tidball, Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice
- Mr Kevin Corcoran, Commissioner, Corrective Services NSW
- Ms Sandra Crawford, Assistant Commissioner, Corrective Services NSW
- Mr Luke Grant, Deputy Commissioner, Corrective Services NSW
- Mr Brendan Thomas, Deputy Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice

The following witness was sworn:

- Mr Carlo Scasserra, Assistant Commissioner, Corrective Services NSW

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

The Minister and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

The Hon Dr Geoff Lee MP, Minister for Corrections, tendered the following document:

- Letter from the Minister for Corrections to Mr Stewart Little, General Secretary, Public Service Association of NSW dated 2 March 2022.

Mr Shoebridge tendered the following document:

- Screen capture showing a comment from the Facebook group "The Last Governor".

Commissioner Kevin Corcoran tendered the following documents:

- Table prepared by Corrections Research, Evaluation & Statistics, Corrective Services NSW, describing number of assaults on inmates and staff in CSNSW for the past financial years.
- Table describing number of inmate and visitor contraband finds for the past financial years, dated 3 February 2022.

The Minister withdrew at 1pm.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 3:30 pm.

4.3 Tendered documents

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Barret: That the committee accept and publish the following documents tendered during the Corrections hearing held on Monday 7 March 2022:

- Letter from the Minister for Corrections to the Mr Stewart Little, General Secretary, Public Service Association of NSW dated 2 March 2022, tendered by The Hon Dr Geoff Lee MP, Minister for Corrections.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Moriarty: That the committee accept and publish the following documents tendered during the Corrections hearing held on Monday 7 March 2022:

- Screen capture showing a comment from the Facebook group "The Last Governor", tendered by Mr Shoebridge.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Moselmane: That the committee accept and publish the following documents tendered by Mr Kevin Corcoran during the Corrections hearing held on Monday 7 March 2022:

- Table prepared by Corrections Research, Evaluation & Statistics, Corrective Services NSW, describing number of assaults on inmates and staff in CSNSW for the past financial years,
- Table prepared for NSW Cabinet, describing number of inmate and visitor contraband finds for the past financial years, dated 3 February 2022.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 3:37 pm, Jubilee Room, Budget Estimates hearing – Corrections.

Stephen Fujiwara
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 55

Monday 14 March 2022

Portfolio Committee No. 5 - Regional NSW and Stronger Communities

Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9.18 am

1. Members present

Mr Borsak, *Chair*

Mr Shoebridge, *Deputy Chair (from 9.30 am until 10.11 am)*

Mr Amato

Ms Boyd (*participating*) (*from 10.32 am until 11.00 am*)

Mr D'Adam (*substituting for Mr Searle*) (*via videoconference*)

Mr Moselmane

Mr Poulos

Mr Secord (*participating*) (*from 10.41 am to 11.33 am*)

2. Apologies

Mr Barrett

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received:

- 3 March 2022 - Email from Felix Fierro, Office of the Hon Dr Geoff Lee MP, Minister for Corrections, advising that Mr Brendan Thomas, Deputy Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice will only appear until 1.00 pm at the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearing
- 4 March 2022 - Email from Patrick Wynne, Office of Mark Speakman, Attorney General, nominating witnesses to appear at the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearing
- 4 March 2022 - Email from Felix Fierro, Office of the Hon Dr Geoff Lee MP, Minister for Corrections, objecting to Mr David Frearson, Chairman, State Parole Authority, Department of Communities and Justice, invitation to appear at the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearing
- 7 March 2022 - Letter from the Hon Dominic Perrottet MP, Premier, requesting that he and the Hon Paul Toole MP, Deputy Premier be excused from attending the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearings scheduled for 9 March 2022 and 10 March 2022.

Sent:

- 4 March 2022 - Email from the secretariat, to Felix Fierro, Office of the Hon Dr Geoff Lee MP, Minister for Corrections, advising no Committee objections received to Mr David Frearson, Chairman, State Parole Authority, Department of Communities and Justice not appearing at the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearing
- 8 March 2022 - Letter from the Hon Robert Borsak MLC, Committee Chair, to the Hon Dominic Perrottet MP, Premier of New South Wales, advising that the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearings of Premier and Deputy Premier are deferred until the first available opportunity to hold the hearing in person with both Premier and senior public officials present
- 8 March 2022 - Email from the secretariat to the Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC, Minister for Families and Communities and Minister for Disability Services, requesting transcript corrections, answers to questions on notice and answers to supplementary questions.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 – supplementary hearings

4.1 Order for examination of portfolios

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 resolution each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 11.00 am, and from 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, then from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm, and from 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions at the end of the morning and afternoon sessions, if required.

4.2 Public hearing: Multiculturalism and Seniors

Departmental witnesses were admitted.

The Hon Mark Coure MP, Minister for Multiculturalism and Minister for Seniors, was 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 Chair also reminded the following witnesses that they did not need to be sworn, as they had been sworn at another Budget Estimates hearing for the same committee.

- Mr Michael Tidball, Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice
- Mr Joseph La Posta, Chief Executive Officer, Multicultural NSW
- Ms Tanya Smyth, Director, Women NSW, Seniors and Carers, Department of Communities and Justice

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Multiculturalism and Seniors open for examination.

The Minister and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

Mr Secord tendered the following documents:

- Webpage template 'HTTP 404 not found': media/media-release/mark-coure-meets-acetca
- Webpage: Mark Coure meets ACETCA dated 22 July 2013
- Photograph Mark Coure and Xi Jinping

The evidence concluded and the Minister and the departmental witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 12.50 pm.

4.3 Tendered documents

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Moselmane: That the committee accept and publish the following documents tendered during the Multiculturalism and Seniors hearing held on Monday 14 March 2022:

- Webpage template 'HTTP 404 not found': media/media-release/mark-coure-meets-acetca, tendered by Mr Secord
- Webpage: Mark Coure meets ACETCA dated 22 July 2013, tendered by Mr Secord
- Photograph Mark Coure and Xi Jinping, tendered by Mr Secord

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 12.52 pm, until 9.15 am, Wednesday 16 March 2022, Macquarie Room, Budget Estimates hearing - Attorney General

Jessie Halligan
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 56

Wednesday 16 March 2022

Portfolio Committee No. 5 - Regional NSW and Stronger Communities

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9.17 am

1. Members present

Mr Borsak, *Chair*

Mr Shoebridge, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Amato

Mr Moselmane

Mr Poulos

Mr Searle

2. Apologies

Mr Barrett

3. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 – supplementary hearings**3.1 Order for examination of portfolios**

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 resolution each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 11.00 am, and from 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, then from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm, and from 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions at the end of the morning and afternoon sessions, if required.

3.2 Public hearing: Attorney General

Departmental witnesses were admitted.

Hon Mark Speakman SC MP, Attorney General, was 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 Chair also reminded the following witnesses that they did not need to be sworn, as they had been sworn at another Budget Estimates hearing for the same committee:

- Mr Michael Tidball, Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice
- Mr Paul McKnight, Deputy Secretary, Law Reform and Legal Services, Department of Communities and Justice
- Ms Anne Campbell, Acting Deputy Secretary, Strategy, Policy and Commissioning, Department of Communities and Justice
- Ms Karen Smith, NSW Crown Solicitor
- Mr Paul O'Reilly, Acting Deputy Secretary, Courts, Tribunals and Service Delivery, Department of Communities and Justice.

The following witnesses were sworn:

- Ms Monique Hitter, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Legal Aid NSW
- Ms Kathryn Boyd, Deputy Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio of Attorney General open for examination.

The Attorney General and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

The Minister withdrew at 12.47 pm.

Mr Shoebridge tabled three items of correspondence.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 3.34 pm.

Mr Searle tabled the following document:

- Audiovisual clip

3.3 Tendered documents

Mr Searle moved: That the committee accept and publish the audiovisual clip.

Mr Poulos moved: That the committee accept, without publication, the audiovisual clip.

Amendment of Mr Poulos put.

The committee divided.

Ayes: Mr Amato, Mr Poulos.

Noes: Mr Moselmane, Mr Searle, Mr Shoebridge.

Amendment of Mr Poulos resolved in the negative.

Original question of Mr Searle put and passed.

Resolved, on the motion by Mr Shoebridge: That the committee accept, but keep confidential, the three items of correspondence tendered during the hearing.

4. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 3.39 pm, sine die.

Laura Ismay

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 57

Wednesday 6 April 2022

Portfolio Committee No. 5 - Regional NSW and Stronger Communities

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9.15 am

1. Members present

Mr Searle (*A/Chair*)

Mr Barrett

Ms Boyd (*substituting for Mr Shoebridge*) (*until 12.01 pm*)

Mr Buttigieg (*substituting for Mr Moselmane*)

Ms Sharpe (*participating*) (*until 2.55 pm*)

Mr Secord (*participating*) (*until 3.50 pm*)

2. Apologies

Mr Amato

Mr Borsak

Mr Poulos

Mr Shoebridge

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 15 March 2022 - Email from Ms Karen Smith, NSW Crown Solicitor, Crown Solicitor's Office, confirming attendance at the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearing for Attorney General
- 16 March 2022 – Email from Mr Patrick Wynne, Office of Mark Speakman, Attorney General, providing a document to be tabled at the Budget Estimates hearing on 16 March 2022
- 29 March 2022 - Letter from the Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC, Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services, to the secretariat, providing transcript corrections, answers to supplementary questions and questions taken on notice
- 29 March 2022 - Letter from Ms Anne Campbell, A/Deputy Secretary, Strategy, Policy and Commissioning, Department of Communities and Justice to Chair - clarifying evidence given at hearing on 2 March 2022
- 29 March 2022 - Letter from Ms Pamela Brunner, A/Deputy Secretary, Child Protection and Permanency, District and Youth Justice Services (Northern) to Chair - clarifying evidence of Ms Simone Czech, Deputy Secretary at hearing on 2 March 2022
- 1 April 2022 - Letter from the Hon Geoff Lee MP, Minister for Corrections, to the secretariat, providing transcript corrections, answers to supplementary questions and questions taken on notice
- 1 April 2022 – Email from Ms Kaycie Bradford, Chief of Staff to the Hon Steph Cooke MP, to the secretariat with a list of witnesses for the postponed Emergency Services and Resilience Budget Estimates hearing on 6 April 2022
- 4 April 2022 - Email from Ms Kaycie Bradford, Chief of Staff to the Hon Steph Cooke MP, to the secretariat requesting that the Budget Estimates hearing into Emergency Services and Resilience on 6 April 2022 conclude at 1.00 pm

Sent:

- 11 March 2022 - Email from the secretariat, to the Hon Geoff Lee MP, Minister for Corrections, requesting transcript corrections, answers to questions on notice and answers to supplementary questions
- 15 March 2022 - Email from the secretariat, to Ms Karen Smith, NSW Crown Solicitor, Crown Solicitor's Office, issuing a witness invitation for the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearing for Attorney General
- 18 March 2022 - Email from the secretariat, to the Hon Mark Coure MP, Minister for Multiculturalism and Minister for Seniors requesting transcript corrections, answers to questions on notice and answers to supplementary questions
- 29 March 2022 – Email from the secretariat to the Hon Steph Cooke MP, Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, informing the Minister of the resolution of the House to hold the postponed Budget Estimates hearing for the Emergency Services and Resilience portfolio on 6 April 2020

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 – supplementary hearings

4.1 Tended documents

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Abigail Boyd: That the committee accept and publish the following documents tendered during the Attorney General hearing held on Wednesday 16 March 2022:

- Letter from MJ Fuller APM, Commissioner of Police to the Hon Mark Speakman MP, Attorney General and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence (ref D/2021/1077928) – tabled by the Hon Mark Speakman MP, Attorney General on 16 March 2022

4.2 Order for examination of portfolios

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 resolution each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 11.00

am, and from 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, then from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm, and from 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions at the end of the morning and afternoon sessions, if required.

4.3 Public hearing: Emergency Services and Resilience

Departmental witnesses were admitted.

The Hon Steph Cooke MP, Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, was 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 Chair also reminded the following witnesses that they did not need to be sworn, as they had been sworn at another Budget Estimates hearing for the same committee.

- Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM, Commissioner, Resilience NSW
- Commissioner Rob Rogers AFSM, Commissioner, NSW Rural Fire Service

The following witnesses were sworn:

- Acting Commissioner Megan Stiffler, Fire and Rescue NSW
- Acting Commissioner Daniel Austin, NSW State Emergency Service
- Deputy Commissioner Damien Johnston, Corporate Services, NSW State Emergency Service

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio of Emergency Services and Resilience open for examination.

The Minister and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

The Minister withdrew at 12.45 pm.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 4.24 pm.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 4.24 pm, until 9.15 am, Wednesday 4 May 2022, Macquarie Room, Budget Estimates hearing – Deputy Premier, Regional New South Wales, Police

Yajun Ma

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 58

Wednesday 4 May 2022

Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Regional NSW and Stronger Communities

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney, 9.20 am

1. Members present

Mr Borsak, *Chair*

Mr Searle (*A/Deputy Chair*)

Mr Amato

Ms Boyd (*participating*) (*from 9.20 am until 3.05 pm*)

Mr Barrett (*via Webex*) (*from 9.20 am until 9.30 am, and from 11.15 am*)

Mr Fang (*substituting for Mr Barrett*) (*from 9.30 am until 10.39 am, and from 11.46 am until 12.50 pm*)

Mr Field (*participating via Webex*) (*from 9.20 am until 12.45 pm, and from 3.20 pm until 4.00 pm*)
 Mr Poulos (*from 9.31 am until 11.57 am, and from 2.03 pm*)
 Mr Secord (*substituting for Mr Moselmane*)
 Mr Veitch (*participating*)

2. Apologies

Ms Faehrmann (*participating*)
 Mr Latham (*participating*)
 Mr Mookhey (*participating*)

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 15 March 2022 - Email from Ms Karen Smith, NSW Crown Solicitor, Crown Solicitor's Office, confirming attendance at the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearing for Attorney General
- 29 March 2022 - Letter from the Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC, Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services, to the secretariat, providing transcript corrections, answers to supplementary questions and questions taken on notice
- 29 March 2022 - Letter from Ms Anne Campbell, A/Deputy Secretary, Strategy, Policy and Commissioning, Department of Communities and Justice to Chair - clarifying evidence given at hearing on 2 March 2022
- 29 March 2022 - Letter from Ms Pamela Brunner, A/Deputy Secretary, Child Protection and Permanency, District and Youth Justice Services (Northern) to Chair, clarifying evidence of Ms Simone Czech, Deputy Secretary at hearing on 2 March 2022
- 1 April 2022 - Letter from the Hon Geoff Lee MP, Minister for Corrections, to the secretariat, providing transcript corrections, answers to supplementary questions and questions taken on notice
- 1 April 2022 - Letter from Commissioner Kevin Corcoran, Corrective Services NSW to Chair, clarifying evidence given at hearing on 7 March 2022
- 1 April 2022 - Letter from Mr Carlo Scasserra, Assistant Commissioner, Governance and Continuous Improvement, Corrective Services NSW to Chair, clarifying evidence given at hearing on 7 March 2022
- 1 April 2022 – Email from Ms Kaycie Bradford, Chief of Staff to the Hon Steph Cooke MP, to the secretariat with a list of witnesses for the postponed Emergency Services and Resilience Budget Estimates hearing on 6 April 2022
- 4 April 2022 - Email from Ms Kaycie Bradford, Chief of Staff to the Hon Steph Cooke MP, to the secretariat requesting that the BE hearing into Emergency Services and Resilience on 6 April 2022 conclude at 1.00 pm
- 8 April 2022 - Letter from the Hon Mark Coure MP, Minister for Multiculturalism and Seniors to secretariat, providing transcript corrections, answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions
- 12 April 2022 - Letter from the Hon Mark Speakman MP Attorney General providing transcript corrections, answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions
- 22 April 2022 - Email from Office of Deputy Premier confirming witnesses to appear at hearing of 5 May 2022
- 27 April 2022 - Email from Office of Deputy Premier nominating additional witness for 5 May 2022
- 2 May 2022 – Email from Ms Nella Hall, Office of the Hon Mark Latham MLC to the secretariat, advising that Mr Latham will no longer be a participating member for the Deputy Premier, Regional NSW and Police hearing on 4 May 2022
- 3 May 2022 – Email from Mr Angus Webber, Parliamentary Liaison Officer, Office of the Hon Paul Toole, Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW and Police, to the secretariat, advising that Mr Peter Thurtell, Deputy Commissioner, Regional NSW will no longer be attending the Deputy Premier, Regional NSW and Police hearing on 4 May 2022 due to Covid and other personal reasons

- 4 May 2022 – Letter from the Hon Scott Farlow MLC, Government Whip to the secretariat, advising that Mr Wes Fang MLC will be substituting for Mr Scott Barrett MLC for the Deputy Premier, Regional NSW and Police hearing on 4 May 2022.

Sent

- 11 March 2022 - Email from the secretariat, to the Hon Geoff Lee MP, Minister for Corrections, requesting transcript corrections, answers to questions on notice and answers to supplementary questions
- 15 March 2022 - Email from the secretariat, to Ms Karen Smith, NSW Crown Solicitor, Crown Solicitor's Office, issuing a witness invitation for the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 additional hearing for Attorney General
- 18 March 2022 - Email from the secretariat, to the Hon Mark Coure MP, Minister for Multiculturalism and Minister for Seniors requesting transcript corrections, answers to questions on notice and answers to supplementary questions
- 29 March 2022 – Email from the secretariat to the Hon Steph Cooke MP, Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, informing the Minister of the resolution of the House to hold the postponed Budget Estimates hearing for the Emergency Services and Resilience portfolio on 6 April 2022
- 19 April 2022 - Email from secretariat to Hon Steph Cooke MP, Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, requesting transcript corrections, answers to questions on notice and answers to supplementary questions
- 21 April 2022 - Email from secretariat to Office of Deputy Premier, reissuing invitation to appear at Budget Estimates hearing on 5 May 2022
- 27 April 2022 - Email from secretariat to Office of Deputy Premier, confirming witnesses to appear on 5 May and requesting again Ms Gold.

4. Deputy Chair for the purposes of today's hearing

As per the resolution of the committee on 21 February 2022, the committee noted that in the event that the Chair and Deputy Chair were absent in a Budget Estimates hearing, Mr Searle act as Chair.

The committee agreed that given the vacancy of the Deputy Chair, Mr Searle act as Deputy Chair for the purposes of today's hearing.

5. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 – additional hearings**5.1 Order for examination of portfolios**

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 resolution each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 11.00 am, and from 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, then from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm, and from 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions at the end of morning and afternoon session, if required.

5.2 Public hearing: Deputy Premier, Regional NSW and Police

Departmental witnesses were admitted.

The Hon Paul Toole MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales and Minister for Police was 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 Chair also reminded the following witnesses that they did not need to be sworn, as they had been sworn at another Budget Estimates hearing for the same committee.

- Commissioner Michael Barnes, Commissioner, NSW Crime Commission
- Mr David Hudson APM, Deputy Commissioner, Investigations and Counter Terrorism, NSW Police Force.

The following witnesses were sworn:

- Commisisoner Karen Webb, Commissioner, NSW Police Force
- Mr Gary Barnes, Secretary, Regional NSW
- Mr Scott Whyte, Assistant Commissioner, Police Prosecutions and Licencing Enforcement Command
- Ms Georgina Beattie, Deputy Secretary, Mining, Exploration and Geoscience
- Mr Chris Hanger, Deputy Secretary, Public Works Advisory and Regional Development Group
- Ms Rebecca Fox, Deputy Secretary, Regional Precincts (via Webex)
- Mr David Witherdin, Chief Executive Officer, Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Deputy Premier, Regional New South Wales and Police open for examination.

The Deputy Premier and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

Mr Borsak tendered the following documents:

- NSW Bureau of Crime Statistic and Research Crime and Justice Bulletin 'Improving police risk assessment of intimate partner violence' by Felix Leung and Lily Trimboli dated February 2022.
- House Business Papers '7572 – Police and Emergency Services – KAMMOUN V COMMISSIONER OF POLICE' dated 14 October 2021.

The Minister, Commissioner Karen Webb, Commissioner Michael Barnes, and Mr David Hudson APM withdrew at 12.45 pm.

Ms Rebecca Fox withdrew at 3.30 pm.

The evidence concluded and the departmental witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 4.23 pm.

5.3 Tendered documents

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Secord: That the committee accept and publish the following documents tendered during the Deputy Premier, Regional New South Wales, and Police hearing held on Wednesday 4 May 2022:

- NSW Bureau of Crime Statistic and Research Crime and Justice Bulletin 'Improving police risk assessment of intimate partner violence' by Felix Leung and Lily Trimboli dated February 2022, tendered by Mr Robert Borsak
- House Business Papers '7572 – Police and Emergency Services – KAMMOUN V COMMISSIONER OF POLICE' dated 14 October 2021, tendered by Mr Robert Borsak.

6. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 4.29 pm, *sine die*.

Jessie Halligan
Committee Clerk

Draft minutes no. 59

Thursday 23 June 2022

Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Regional NSW and Stronger Communities

Room 1254, Parliament House, Sydney, 2.15 pm

1. Members present

Mr Borsak (Chair)

Mr Barrett

Mr Moselmane

Mr Poulos

Mr Searle

2. Apologies

Mr Moselmane

3. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Searle: That draft minutes nos. 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57 and 58 be confirmed.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 – additional hearings**4.1 Answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions (*previously circulated*)**

The committee noted that the following answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions were published by the committee clerk under the authorisation of the resolution establishing the Inquiry:

- Answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions - Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC - Minister for Families and Communities, Disability Services - received 29 March 2022
- Answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions - Hon Geoff Lee MP - Minister for Corrections - received 1 April 2022
- Answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions - Hon Mark Coure MP - Minister for Multiculturalism and Seniors - received 8 April 2022
- Answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions - Hon Mark Speakman MP - Attorney General - received 12 April 2022
- Answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions - Hon Steph Cooke MP - Emergency Services and Resilience - received 10 May 2022.

4.2 Consideration of Chair's draft report

The Chair submitted his draft report entitled Budget Estimates 2021-2022, which, having been previously circulated, was taken as being read.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Searle: That:

The draft report be the report of the committee and that the committee present the report to the House;

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;

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;

The committee secretariat correct any typographical, grammatical and formatting errors prior to tabling;

That the report be tabled by June 30 2022.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 2.15 pm, *sine die*.

Stewart Smith
Committee Clerk

