



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 1

Budget Estimates 2023-2024

Report 62

June 2024

1



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Portfolio Committee No. 1 - Premier and Finance

Budget Estimates 2023-2024

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Budget Estimates 2023-2024

"June 2024"

Chair: Hon Jeremy Buckingham MLC



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Terms of reference

The Budget Estimates resolution and schedule was agreed to by the House on 12 September 2023, referring the Budget Estimates and related papers for 2023-2024 to the Portfolio Committees for inquiry and report and is reproduced, as amended on 11 October 2023 and 30 November 2023, as follows:

Initial hearings

1. That, upon tabling, the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2023-2024 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 10 May 2023 adopting the 2023 sitting calendar,¹ the 2023-2024 initial budget estimates hearings be scheduled as follows:

Day One: Tuesday 24 October 2023

PC 3 Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney
PC 4 Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport

Day Two: Wednesday 25 October 2023

PC 1 Premier
PC 4 Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales

Day Three: Thursday 26 October 2023

PC 2 Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast
PC 1 Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, the Central Coast, Medical Research

Day Four: Tuesday 31 October 2023

PC 1 Treasurer
PC 8 Customer Service and Digital Government, Emergency Services, Youth Justice

Day Five: Wednesday 1 November 2023

PC 2 Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast
PC 6 Regional Transport and Roads
PC 3 Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

Day Six: Thursday 2 November 2023

PC 7 Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage
PC 1 Finance, Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, Natural Resources

¹ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 10 May 2023, pp 64-65.

Day Seven:	Friday 3 November 2023
PC 7	Planning and Public Spaces
PC 5	Women, Seniors, Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
Day Eight:	Tuesday 7 November 2023
PC 1	The Legislature
PC 6	Transport
PC 5	Police and Counter Terrorism, the Hunter
Day Nine:	Wednesday 8 November 2023
PC 1	Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety
PC 8	Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Industry and Trade, Innovation, Science and Technology, Building, Corrections
Day Ten:	Thursday 9 November 2023
PC 6	Special Minister of State, Roads, Arts, Music and the Night-time Economy, Jobs and Tourism
PC 5	Families and Communities, Disability Inclusion
Day Eleven:	Friday 10 November 2023
PC 5	Attorney-General
PC 8	Local Government

3. That the remainder of the Budget Estimates 2023-2024 hearings be held during the first half of 2024, as determined by further resolution of the House.
4. That for the purposes of the 2023-2024 initial budget estimates hearings:
 - (a) each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.15 am to 10.45 am, 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm and 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, and, if required, by Government members only from 10.45 am to 11.00 am, 12.45 pm to 1.00 pm, and 5.15 pm to 5.30 pm
 - (b) the portfolio of The Legislature be examined by Opposition, Crossbench and Government members from 2.00 pm until 5.30 pm.
5. That for the purposes of the 2023-2024 initial budget estimates hearings:
 - (a) the committees must hear evidence in public
 - (b) 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
 - (c) ministers be invited to appear for the morning sessions only unless requested by committees to appear also for the afternoon session

- (d) witnesses, including ministers, may not make an opening statement before a committee commences questions
- (e) members may lodge supplementary questions with the committee clerk by 5.00 pm within two business days following the receipt of the hearing transcript
- (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.

6. That the committees report by 28 June 2024.²

Supplementary hearing

1. That, further to the resolution of the House of 12 September 2023 referring Budget Estimates 2023- 2024 to the Portfolio Committees for inquiry and report, as amended 11 October 2023, and the resolution of the House of 10 May 2023 adopting the 2023 sitting calendar, Portfolio Committee No. 4 - Regional NSW hold a supplementary hearing in 2023 to examine the portfolios of Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales.
2. That for the purposes of the 2023-2024 supplementary budget estimates hearing:
 - (a) each portfolio be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.15 am to 10.45 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 10.45 am, 12.45 pm and 5.15 pm, if required
 - (b) the committee must hear evidence in public
 - (c) the committee may ask for explanations from the minister, parliamentary secretaries or officers of departments, statutory bodies or corporations, relating to the items of proposed expenditure
 - (d) the minister be invited to appear for the morning session only unless requested by the committee to appear also for the afternoon session
 - (e) witnesses, including the minister, may not make an opening statement before a committee commences questions
 - (f) members may lodge supplementary questions with the committee clerk by 5.00 pm within two business days following the receipt of the hearing transcript
 - (g) 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.³

² *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 12 September 2023, pp 446-450; amended, *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 11 October 2023, p 558.

³ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 22 November 2023, pp 692-693.

Additional hearings

1. That, further to the resolution of the House of 12 September 2023 referring Budget Estimates 2023-2024 to the Portfolio Committees for inquiry and report, as amended 11 October 2023, and the resolution of the House of 21 November 2023 adopting the 2024 sitting calendar,⁴ the 2023-2024 additional budget estimates hearings be scheduled as follows:

Day One: Tuesday 20 February 2024

PC 3 Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney
 PC 4 Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport

Day Two: Wednesday 21 February 2024

PC 1 Premier
 PC 4 Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales

Day Three: Thursday 22 February 2024

PC 2 Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast
 PC 1 Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, the Central Coast, Medical Research

Day Four: Friday 23 February 2024

PC 6 Transport
 PC 5 Police and Counter Terrorism, the Hunter

Day Five: Tuesday 27 February 2024

PC 7 Planning and Public Spaces
 PC 5 Women, Seniors, Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Day Six: Wednesday 28 February 2024

PC 2 Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast
 PC 8 Customer Service and Digital Government, Emergency Services, Youth Justice

Day Seven: Thursday 29 February 2024

PC 1 Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety
 PC 6 Regional Transport and Roads

Day Eight: Friday 1 March 2024

PC 1 Treasurer
 PC 8 Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Industry and Trade, Innovation, Science and Technology, Building, Corrections

Day Nine: Monday 4 March 2024

PC 5 Families and Communities, Disability Inclusion
 PC 1 The Legislature

Day Ten: Tuesday 5 March 2024

⁴ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 21 November 2023, pp 666-667.

PC 6 Special Minister of State, Roads, Arts, Music and the Night-time Economy,
Jobs and Tourism

PC 3 Skills, TAFE, Tertiary Education

Day Eleven: Wednesday 6 March 2024

PC 5 Attorney-General

PC 8 Local Government

Day Twelve: Thursday 7 March 2024

PC 7 Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage

PC 1 Finance, Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, Natural Resources

2. That for the purposes of the 2023-2024 additional budget estimates hearings:
 - (a) each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.15 am to 10.45 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 10.45 am, 12.45 pm and 5.15 pm, if required
 - (b) the portfolio of The Legislature be examined by Opposition, Crossbench and Government members from 9.15 am to 11.00 am, and from 11.15 am to 1.00 pm.
3. That for the purposes of the 2023-2024 additional budget estimates hearings:
 - (a) the committees must hear evidence in public
 - (b) 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
 - (c) ministers be invited to appear for the morning sessions only unless requested by committees to appear also for the afternoon session
 - (d) witnesses, including ministers, may not make an opening statement before a committee commences questions
 - (e) members may lodge supplementary questions with the committee clerk by 5.00 pm within two business days following the receipt of the hearing transcript

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.⁵

⁵ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 30 November 2023, pp 787-788.

Committee details

Committee members

Hon Jeremy Buckingham MLC	Legalise Cannabis Party	<i>Chair</i>
Hon Robert Borsak MLC	Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
Hon Dr Sarah Kaine MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Hon Stephen Lawrence MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Hon Bob Nanva MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Hon Chris Rath MLC	Liberal Party	
Hon Damien Tudehope MLC	Liberal Party	

Non-substantive members who attended the hearings

Ms Abigail Boyd MLC	The Greens	
Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC	The Greens	
Hon Wes Fang MLC	The Nationals	
Hon Scott Farlow MLC	Liberal Party	
Ms Sue Higginson MLC	The Greens	
Hon Emma Hurst MLC	Animal Justice Party	
Hon Mark Latham MLC	Independent	
Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC	The Nationals	
Hon Jacqui Munro MLC	Liberal Party	
Hon Cameron Murphy MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Hon Peter Primrose MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Hon Emily Suvaal MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC	The Nationals	

Contact details

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Chair's foreword

I am pleased to present this report on the inquiry into Budget Estimates 2023-2024. The 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. 1 – Premier and Finance is responsible for the scrutiny of the following portfolio areas:

- Premier
- Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, the Central Coast, Medical Research
- Treasurer
- Finance, Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, Natural Resources
- The Legislature
- Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety.

The primary 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 Jeremy Buckingham MLC
Committee 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, including answers to questions on notice, and answers to post-hearing written questions (known as supplementary questions). There is no provision for written submissions.

Budget Estimates 2023-2024

- 1.1 On 12 September 2023, the Legislative Council referred the Budget Estimates for the 2023-2024 financial year to the portfolio committees for inquiry and report.⁶
- 1.2 On 10 May 2023, the Legislative Council resolved that initial hearings for Budget Estimates 2023-2024 be held over 12 days from 24 October to 26 October and 31 October to 10 November 2023.⁷ The hearing schedule was amended by the House on 12 September 2023 to provide that initial hearings for Budget Estimates 2023-2024 be held over 11 days from 24 October to 26 October, 31 October to 3 November, and 7 November to 10 November 2023.⁸ The hearing schedule was further amended by the House on 11 October 2023 to add an additional hearing and make consequential amendments.⁹
- 1.3 On 22 November 2023, the Legislative Council resolved to hold a supplementary hearing for the portfolios of Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, and Western New South Wales in 2023.¹⁰
- 1.4 On 30 November 2023, the Legislative Council resolved that additional hearings for Budget Estimates 2023-2024 be held over 12 days from 20 February to 23 February, 27 February to 1 March, and 4 March to 7 March 2024.¹¹
- 1.5 The Budget Estimates resolution establishing the inquiry, which sets out the rules for the inquiry, is reproduced on page iv-viii.

⁶ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 12 September 2023, pp 448-450.

⁷ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 10 May 2023, p 64.

⁸ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 12 September 2023, p 449.

⁹ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 11 October 2023, p 558.

¹⁰ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 22 November 2023, pp 692-693.

¹¹ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 30 November 2023, pp 787-788.

Hearings

1.6 The committee held twelve public hearings as follows:

- Wednesday 25 October 2023 and Wednesday 21 February 2024: Premier, including independent agencies
- Thursday 26 October 2023 and Thursday 22 February 2024: Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, the Central Coast, Medical Research
- Tuesday 31 October 2023 and Friday 1 March 2024: Treasurer
- Thursday 2 November 2023 and Thursday 7 March 2024: Finance, Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, Natural Resources
- Thursday 7 November 2023 and Monday 4 March 2024: The Legislature
- Wednesday 8 November 2023 and Thursday 29 February 2024: Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety.

Transcripts, questions on notice and supplementary questions

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

Chapter 2 Issues raised during hearings

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

Premier, including independent agencies

2.1 A hearing examining the portfolio of Premier was held on Wednesday 25 October 2023. As part of this hearing a panel of independent agencies was examined, comprising the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption, Audit Office of New South Wales, NSW Electoral Commission, NSW Public Service Commission, NSW Ombudsman, and Law Enforcement Conduct Commission. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of these portfolios:

- the decision to light up the Opera House with the colours of the Israeli flag
- the proposed New South Wales Drug Summit
- disclosure obligations of ministers
- Local Small Commitments Allocation
- the proposed aerial shooting of brumbies in Kosciuszko National Park
- the appointment of Mr Josh Murray as the Secretary of Transport for NSW
- the response of the NSW Police Force to Law Enforcement Conduct Commission reports, particularly in relation to strip searches, critical incidents, and response in mental health situations
- Budget allocation to palliative care
- the transition from coal production to renewable energy in Lithgow and the Hunter region
- the public forest estate, climate targets, emissions reduction and the Net Zero Emissions and Clean Economy Board
- electoral matters, including multiple voting, social media advertising and the status of tithes.

2.2 An additional hearing examining the portfolio of Premier was held on Wednesday 21 February 2024. As part of this hearing a panel of independent agencies was examined, comprising the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption, Audit Office of New South Wales, NSW Electoral Commission, NSW Public Service Commission, and Law Enforcement Conduct Commission. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of these portfolios:

- anti-Israel remarks made by a member of the Australian Labor Party
- NZYQ High Court Case of Australia and offence data of the released people into the community
- regional youth crime

- improved conditions and pay to increase the number of police officers in the state
- organised crime and violence
- the New South Wales public sector as an employer
- aerial culling of brumbies in Kosciuszko National Park
- legalising cannabis for adult recreational use
- mining communities and coal exports
- palliative care funding
- Australian Turf Club on the proposal to relocate Rosehill Racecourse
- decommissioning of solar farms and wind farms
- renewable energy projects
- Local Small Commitments Allocations
- housing crisis for younger generations
- improved policies for accessibility and people with a disability
- Public Interest Disclosures
- funding for the NSW Electoral Commission
- increased powers of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission.

Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, the Central Coast, Medical Research

2.3 A hearing examining the portfolios of Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, the Central Coast, Medical Research was held on Thursday 26 October 2023. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of these portfolios:

- Closing the Gap
- truth telling initiatives and the treaty process
- Aboriginal cultural heritage
- Stolen Generations Reparations Scheme
- First Nations languages in schools
- placement of Aboriginal Affairs in the Premier's Department and staffing
- rehoming and euthanising greyhounds
- greyhound racing, including work culture at Greyhound Racing NSW
- poker machines and money laundering in licensed venues including The Star
- redistribution of \$100 million fine from The Star

- research and funding for medicinal cannabis
- funding for the upkeep and creation of veterans' war memorials
- support services for veterans
- Wamberal Beach seawall.

2.4 An additional hearing examining the portfolios of Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, the Central Coast, Medical Research was held on Thursday 22 February 2024. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of these portfolios:

- cashless gaming trial
- amount of funding for the Responsible Gambling Fund
- the sale of Rosehill Racecourse
- the setting up of an independent treaty commission and Closing the Gap targets
- remediation of Star Casino
- review of the ClubGRANTS scheme
- Racing for the Regions Program – upgrades at the Gosford Race Club and in Scone
- funding comparison for the WugulOra ceremony on Australia Day
- rehoming and exporting of greyhounds, and the number of reported greyhounds' deaths
- use of facial recognition technology at pubs and clubs
- revitalisation of Aboriginal languages
- Community Building Partnership funding for Soldiers Beach Surf Life Saving Club
- selection panel for the appointment of the head of Racing NSW
- illegal dumping of asbestos
- Anzac Day and the Pandemonium Festival
- Veterans Strategy, including women veterans and children of veterans
- undesirable liquor products
- destruction of Aboriginal cultural heritage
- revision of Health and Medical Research Strategy
- exemptions from mandatory poker machine shutdown in pubs and clubs.

Treasurer

2.5 A hearing examining the portfolio of Treasurer was held on Tuesday 31 October 2023. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- email sent by Secretary to staff regarding Hamas attack on Israel

- funding for palliative care, Screen NSW
- value, cost and timing of intergenerational reports
- economic benefits of legalisation of medicinal cannabis and related modelling
- ramifications of the Vanderstock case
- revenue raising options for Treasury
- coal royalties, the closure of Eraring Power Station and the transition to net zero
- the cost of public sector wages
- format of the Budget statements, including the measures statements and outcomes-based budgeting
- shift in policy direction for the Transport Asset Holding Entity (TAHE)
- gas projects, impacts on gas and electricity prices
- climate risks, reporting and accounting standards
- potential revenues from increasing club gaming devices, carbon abatement via state forests.

2.6 An additional hearing examining the portfolio of Treasurer was held on Friday 1 March 2024. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- housing, including Rosehill Racecourse redevelopment and housing targets
- federal-state funding agreements
- legal advice following the Vanderstock case
- palliative care funding
- removing the emergency services levy from insurance
- Toll Review, including use of consultants as part of the review
- the impact of TAHE's conversion on the Budget
- compulsory acquisition in Dunnedoo
- regulation of cannabis
- conversion of native forests into carbon credit systems
- merging existing funds into a whole-of-state fund.

Finance, Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, Natural Resources

2.7 A hearing examining the portfolios of Finance, Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, Natural Resources was held on Thursday 2 November 2023. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of these portfolios:

- concerns regarding a potential conflict of interest and conduct by the Minister
- Minister's responsibilities during their time when the State Insurance Regulatory Authority (SIRA) was under their ministerial portfolio
- mining and critical minerals royalties
- New South Wales' fiscal outlook including state debt and projections and Treasury's expenditure review
- critical minerals strategy including relevant projects and community consultation underway
- Minister's new portfolio responsibility regarding domestic manufacturing and relevant projects and funding associated with rebuilding local manufacturing
- Revenue NSW – outstanding COVID-19 quarantine bills, payroll tax audits
- regional future jobs and investment authorities.

2.8 An additional hearing examining the portfolios of Finance, Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, Natural Resources was held on Thursday 7 March 2024. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of these portfolios:

- second case relating to COVID-19 fines, raised by the Redfern Legal Centre and recouping funds associated with COVID-19 quarantine hotel stays
- procurement practices inquiry being conducted by the Standing Committee on Social Issues, including domestic employment and equal opportunities for small and medium businesses
- costs associated with purchase and removal of asbestos contaminated mulch
- establishment of the Future Jobs & Transitions Authorities in the Hunter, Illawarra, North West and Central West regions
- payroll tax pause for General Practitioners, point of consumption taxes and the foreign owner surcharge
- potential for domestic violence exemption on stamp duty and a mental health levy on payroll tax
- establishment of the NSW Jobs First Commission within NSW Treasury
- royalties for Rejuvenation Fund and whether appropriate security deposits are held to rehabilitate the Russell Vale and Wongawilli collieries
- lung function testing in the mining industry
- issues raised within the Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health inquiry into heavy metals
- the strategic position on coal and the rollout of the Critical Minerals and the High-Tech Metals Strategy
- NSW First Home Buyer Choice Scheme
- conversion of casual to full time positions for nurses and midwives

- transparency of the exploration licence obtained by Peabody Energy and agricultural land being explored for coal in Wollar.

The Legislature

2.9 A hearing examining the portfolio of The Legislature was held on Tuesday 7 November 2023. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- critical maintenance and restoration work at NSW Parliament
- overseas and regional travel by the President
- cybersecurity at NSW Parliament
- progress on implementation of the Broderick Review
- plans to commemorate the Bicentenary of the Legislative Council
- upgrade of payroll and Human Resources systems.

2.10 An additional hearing examining the portfolio of The Legislature was held on Monday 4 March 2024. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- NSW Parliament restoration and capital works upgrades
- the role of the Independent Complaints Officer and implementation of the recommendations of the Broderick Review
- provision of media monitoring services to members
- security arrangements, including cybersecurity
- Bicentenary of the Legislative Council, including a potential Royal visit and the hosting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference
- use of Members' Electoral Allowance.

2.11 As noted in the dot points, during this hearing there was discussion about the appropriate use of Members' Electoral Allowance. On 19 March 2024, the Hon Mark Latham MLC wrote to the Chair suggesting that Ms Abigail Boyd MLC had made an undertaking at the hearing to provide certain documents relating to the expenditure of her electoral allowance. Mr Latham's letter noted his attempts to receive and view these documents and requested that the committee take action to pursue this matter. The committee agreed to write to Ms Boyd requesting that she clarify her evidence. Ms Boyd responded to the committee on 25 March 2024.

Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety

2.12 A hearing examining the portfolio of the Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety was held on Wednesday 8 November 2023. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of these portfolios:

- silicosis related issues, including:
 - proposed legislation
 - the silica register and licensing scheme
 - a ban on engineered stone
 - industry transition arrangements
- icare related issues, including:
 - board membership and communication with injured workers
 - the number of workers under care, treatment timeframes and return to work rates
 - financial viability
 - complaints management
- SafeWork NSW related issues, including:
 - education and regulation functions
 - the number of inspectors
 - the separation of SafeWork NSW from the Department of Customer Service
- public sector wages and award negotiations
- work health and safety support for athletes, farmers and gig workers
- long service leave provisions for casual workers.

2.13 An additional hearing examining the portfolios of Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety was held on Thursday 29 February 2024. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of these portfolios:

- re-establishment of the NSW Industrial Court, appointments and the right of appeal
- SafeWork NSW related issues, including:
 - regulatory priorities specifically respect at work and workplace harassment
 - review and implementation of the McDougall report
 - the establishment of a stand-alone regulator
 - Independent Commission Against Corruption referral regarding the procurement of a silica monitoring device
- public sector wages and award negotiations, including:
 - bargaining parameters, proposals and draft agreements
 - Fire and Rescue NSW and NSW Ambulance Paramedics awards
 - establishment of the Peak Engagement Council and mutual gains bargaining training
- icare related issues, including:
 - operational review

- use of consultants/contractors
- presumptive legislation for cancer and post-traumatic stress disorder
- engineered stone ban framework and the implementation of related legislation
- alcohol and other drug testing policies in workplaces and their application
- appointment of Department Liaison Officers in the Minister's office
- 'Nowhere To Go' campaign – amenities for women at construction work sites.

Appendix 1 Witnesses at hearings

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
Wednesday 25 October 2023 Macquarie Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Chris Minns MP	Premier
	Mr Simon Draper PSM	Secretary, Premier's Department
	Mr William Murphy PSM	Acting Secretary, The Cabinet Office
	Ms Kate Boyd PSM	Deputy Secretary, General Counsel, The Cabinet Office
	Ms Samara Dobbins	Deputy Secretary, Delivery and Coordination, Premier's Department
	Ms Kate Meagher	Deputy Secretary, Community Engagement Group, Premier's Department
	Ms Kathrina Lo	Public Service Commissioner, NSW Public Service Commission
	Ms Margaret Crawford	Auditor-General, Audit Office of NSW
	Mr Ian Goodwin	Deputy Auditor-General, Audit Office of NSW
	Hon John Hatzistergos AM	Chief Commissioner, NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption
	Mr Darrin Moy	CEO, NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption
	Mr John Schmidt	Commissioner, NSW Electoral Commission
	Mr Matthew Phillips	Executive Director Corporate, NSW Electoral Commission
Ms Rachel McCallum	Executive Director Funding Disclosure & Compliance and General Counsel, NSW Electoral Commission	

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
	Mr Paul Miller	Ombudsman, NSW Ombudsman
	Mr Peter Johnson SC	Chief Commissioner, Law Enforcement Conduct Commission
	Ms Christina Anderson	Chief Executive Officer, Law Enforcement Conduct Commission
Thursday 26 October 2023 Preston Stanley Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon David Harris MP	Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, the Central Coast, Medical Research
	Mr Tarek Barakat	Acting CEO, Hospitality and Racing, Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade
	Ms Elizabeth Mildwater	Secretary, Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade
	Mr Steve Griffin	CEO, Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission
	Mr Shane Hamilton	Deputy Secretary, Aboriginal Affairs, Premier's Department
	Mr Simon Draper	Secretary, (for Aboriginal Affairs), Premier's Department
	Dr Jean-Frederic Levesque	Deputy Secretary, Research and Innovation, NSW Health
	Ms Harriet Whyte	Executive Director, Regional Development, Department of Regional NSW
	Ms Caroline Mackaness	Director, Office of Veterans Affairs, Department of Communities and Justice
	Mr Philip Crawford	Chief Commissioner, NSW Independent Casino Commission

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
	Ms Caroline Lamb	Chairperson, Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority
Tuesday 31 October 2023 Macquarie Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC	Treasurer
	Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter	Secretary, NSW Treasury
	Mr David Deverall	Chief Executive, NSW Treasury Corporation
	Mr Tom Gellibrand	Chief Executive, Infrastructure NSW
	Mr Said Hirsh	Head of Strategy, Planning and Innovation, Infrastructure NSW
	Ms Marina van der Walt	Deputy Secretary, Financial Management and Services, NSW Treasury
	Ms Liz Livingstone	Deputy Secretary, Policy and Budget, NSW Treasury
	Ms Sonya Campbell	Deputy Secretary, Commercial, NSW Treasury
	Ms Joann Wilkie	Deputy Secretary, Economic Strategy and Productivity, NSW Treasury
Thursday 2 November 2023 Preston Stanley Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Courtney Houssos MLC	Minister for Finance, Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, Natural Resources
	Ms Mandy Young	Deputy Secretary, Chief Commissioner of State Revenue, Commissioner of Fines Administration, Revenue NSW
	Mr Cullen Smythe	Executive Director, Technical and Advisory Services, Commissioner of State Revenue, Revenue NSW
	Ms Georgina Beattie	CEO, Mining Exploration and Geoscience, Department of Regional NSW

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
	Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter	Secretary, NSW Treasury
	Ms Sonya Campbell	Deputy Secretary, Commercial, NSW Treasury
	Mr Peter Day	Executive Director, NSW Resources Regulator, Department of Regional NSW
	Ms Liz Livingstone	Deputy Secretary, Policy and Budget, Treasury
Tuesday 7 November 2023 Room 814 Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Ben Franklin MLC	President of the Legislative Council
	Mr David Blunt	Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Council, Legislative Council, Parliament of NSW
	Mr Mark Webb	Chief Executive Officer, Department of Parliamentary Services, Parliament of NSW
	Ms Jocelyn Webb	Director, Financial Services & Governance, Department of Parliamentary Services, Parliament of NSW
Wednesday 8 November 2023 Preston Stanley Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Sophie Cotsis MP	Minister for Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety
	Mr Richard Harding	CEO and Managing Director, icare
	Mr Stuart Farquharson	Chief Financial Officer, icare
	Mr Trent Curtin	Deputy Secretary SafeWork NSW, Department of Customer Service
	Ms Sonya Campbell	Deputy Secretary, Commercial, NSW Treasury
	Mr Simon Draper	Secretary, Premier's Department
	Ms Samara Dobbins	Deputy Secretary Delivery & Coordination, Premier's

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
		Department
Wednesday 21 February 2024 Macquarie Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Chris Minns MP	Premier
	Mr Simon Draper PSM	Secretary, Premier's Department
	Mr William Murphy PSM	Acting Secretary, The Cabinet Office
	Ms Kate Boyd PSM	Deputy Secretary, General Counsel, The Cabinet Office
	Ms Samara Dobbins	Deputy Secretary, Delivery and Coordination, Premier's Department
	Ms Kate Meagher	Deputy Secretary, Community Engagement Group, Premier's Department
	Ms Gillian White	Deputy Secretary, Social Policy and National Reform Group, The Cabinet Office
	Mr Marcus Ray	Deputy Secretary, Economic and Environment Policy Group, The Cabinet Office.
	Ms Kathrina Lo	Public Service Commissioner, NSW Public Service Commission
	Ms Margaret Crawford	Auditor-General, Audit Office of NSW
	Mr Ian Goodwin	Deputy Auditor-General, Audit Office of NSW
	Hon John Hatzistergos AM	Chief Commissioner, NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption
Mr Darrin Moy	CEO, NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption	
Mr John Schmidt	Commissioner, NSW Electoral Commission	

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
	Mr Matthew Phillips	Executive Director Corporate, NSW Electoral Commission
	Ms Rachel McCallum	Executive Director Funding Disclosure & Compliance and General Counsel, NSW Electoral Commission
	Mr Peter Johnson SC	Chief Commissioner, Law Enforcement Conduct Commission
	Ms Christina Anderson	Chief Executive Officer, Law Enforcement Conduct Commission
	Mr Chris Lamb	Deputy Commissioner, NSW Public Service Commission
	Ms Michelle Ward	Executive Director Corporate Services, NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption
Thursday 22 February 2024 Preston Stanley Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon David Harris MP	Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, the Central Coast, Medical Research
	Mr Tarek Barakat	Acting CEO, Hospitality and Racing, Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade
	Ms Elizabeth Mildwater	Secretary, Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade
	Mr Steve Griffin	CEO, Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission
	Mr Shane Hamilton	Deputy Secretary, Aboriginal Affairs, Premier's Department
	Mr Simon Draper	Secretary, (for Aboriginal Affairs), Premier's Department
	Dr Jean-Frederic Levesque	Deputy Secretary, Research and Innovation, NSW Health

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
	Ms Harriet Whyte	Executive Director, Regional Development, Department of Regional NSW
	Ms Caroline Mackaness	Director, Office of Veterans Affairs, Department of Communities and Justice
	Mr Philip Crawford	Chief Commissioner, NSW Independent Casino Commission
	Ms Caroline Lamb	Chairperson, Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority
Thursday 29 February 2023 Macquarie Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Sophie Cotsis MP	Minister for Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety
	Mr Richard Harding	CEO and Managing Director, icare
	Mr Stuart Farquharson	Chief Financial Officer, icare
	Mr Trent Curtin	Deputy Secretary SafeWork NSW, Department of Customer Service
	Mr Charlie Heuston	Executive Director, Industrial Relations, Premier's Department
	Ms Sonya Campbell	Deputy Secretary, Commercial, NSW Treasury
	Mr Simon Draper	Secretary, Premier's Department
	Ms Samara Dobbins	Deputy Secretary Delivery & Coordination, Premier's Department
	Mr Graeme Head	Secretary, Department of Customer Service
Friday 1 March 2024 Macquarie Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC	Treasurer

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
	Mr David Deverall	Chief Executive, NSW Treasury Corporation
	Mr Tom Gellibrand	Chief Executive, Infrastructure NSW
	Mr Said Hirsh	Head of Strategy, Planning and Innovation, Infrastructure NSW
	Ms Marina van der Walt	Deputy Secretary, Financial Management and Services, NSW Treasury
	Ms Liz Livingstone	Deputy Secretary, Policy and Budget, NSW Treasury
	Ms Sonya Campbell	Deputy Secretary, Commercial, NSW Treasury
Monday 4 March 2024 Preston Stanley Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Ben Franklin MLC	President of the Legislative Council
	Mr David Blunt	Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Council, Legislative Council, Parliament of NSW
	Mr Mark Webb	Chief Executive Officer, Department of Parliamentary Services, Parliament of NSW
Thursday 7 March 2024 Preston Stanley Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Courtney Houssos MLC	Minister for Finance, Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, Natural Resources
	Mr Scott Johnston	Deputy Secretary, Chief Commissioner of State Revenue, Commissioner of Fines Administration, Revenue NSW
	Mr Cullen Smythe	Executive Director, Technical and Advisory Services, Commissioner of State Revenue, Revenue NSW
	Ms Georgina Beattie	CEO, Mining Exploration and Geoscience, Department of

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
		Regional NSW
	Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter	Secretary, NSW Treasury
	Ms Sonya Campbell	Deputy Secretary, Commercial, NSW Treasury
	Ms Joann Wilkie	Deputy Secretary, Economic Strategy and Productivity, NSW Treasury
	Mr Peter Day	Executive Director, NSW Resources Regulator, Department of Regional NSW
	Ms Liz Livingstone	Deputy Secretary, Policy and Budget, Treasury

Appendix 2 Minutes

Minutes no. 7

Tuesday 19 September 2023

Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance

Room 1043, Parliament House, Sydney at 1.38 pm

1. Members present

Mr Buckingham, *Chair*

Dr Kaine

Mr Lawrence

Mr Nanva

Mr Rath (via Webex)

2. Apologies

Mr Tudehope

3. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Lawrence: That draft minutes nos. 5 and 6 be confirmed.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2023-2024 – procedural resolutions

The committee noted that the Budget Estimates timetable for 2023-2024 was agreed to by the House, with hearings generally commencing at 9.15 am and concluding by 5.30 pm.. Below is a table of Portfolio Committee No. 1 hearings:

Date	Portfolio
Wednesday 25 October 2023	Premier
Thursday 26 October 2023	Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, the Central Coast, Medical Research
Tuesday 31 October 2023	Treasurer
Thursday 2 November 2023	Finance, Natural Resources
Tuesday 7 November 2023	The Legislature
Wednesday 8 November 2023	Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety

4.1 Allocation of question time and total hearing time

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2023-2024 resolution:

- (a) each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only from 9.15 am to 10.45 am, 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm and 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, and, if required, by Government members only from 10.45 am to 11.00 am, 12.45 pm to 1.00 pm, and 5.15 pm to 5.30 pm, and

- (b) the portfolio of The Legislature be examined concurrently by Opposition, Crossbench and Government members from 2.00 pm until 5.30 pm.

4.2 Witness requests

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Nanva: That:

- the secretariat write to the ministers of the relevant portfolios being examined by the committee to request that they nominate witnesses to appear at each hearing, for the committee's consideration
- upon receipt, the nominated witnesses be circulated to the committee
- members be given two days from when the nominated witnesses are circulated to make amendments or nominate additional witnesses
- the committee agree to the witness list by email, unless a meeting of the committee is required to resolve any disagreement.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Nanva: That the committee not invite parliamentary secretaries to appear as witnesses at the hearings.

4.3 Independent agencies

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Nanva: That, for the hearing on Wednesday 25 October 2023 for the portfolio of Premier:

- independent agencies be invited to appear as part of a panel separate from department witnesses, from 3.45 pm until 5.30 pm
- the secretariat write to the heads of the following independent agencies to request that they nominate witnesses to appear:
 - Independent Commission Against Corruption
 - Office of the Auditor General
 - NSW Electoral Commission
 - NSW Public Service Commission
- upon receipt, the nominated witnesses from the independent agencies be circulated to the committee
- members be given two days from when the nominated witnesses from the independent agencies are circulated to make amendments or nominate additional witnesses
- the committee agree to the witness list by email, unless a meeting of the committee is required to resolve any disagreement.

4.4 Witness appearance time

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2023-2024 resolution Ministers are invited to appear for the morning sessions only, 9.15 am to 1.00 pm, unless requested by the committee to appear also for the afternoon session.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 1.41 pm until Monday 16 October (site visit – inquiry into artificial intelligence (AI) in New South Wales).

Arizona Hart

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 9

Wednesday 25 October 2023

Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.00 am

1. Members present

Mr Buckingham, *Chair*

Mr Borsak, *Deputy Chair* (until 4.17 pm)

Ms Boyd (participating from 9.52 am until 10.45 am, and from 3.46 pm until 4.35 pm)
Ms Faehrmann (participating via videoconference from 9.11 am until 10.04 am, and from 11.53 am until 12.48 pm)
Ms Higginson (participating from 10.45 am until 12.48 pm, and from 2.51 pm until 5.10 pm)
Mrs Mitchell (substituting for Mr Rath)
Mr Nanva
Mr Primrose (substituting for Mr Lawrence)
Ms Suvaal (substituting for Dr Kaine until 12.48 pm)
Mrs Taylor (participating from 9.51 am until 10.15 am)
Mr Tudehope

2. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Nanva: That draft minutes no. 7 be confirmed.

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 22 September 2023 – Email from Ms Sarah Bradshaw, Executive Officer, Public Service Commission to Budget Estimates secretariat, providing witness list for hearing on 25 October 2023
- 26 September 2023 – Email from Ms Cara Punch, Office of the Hon Chris Minns MP, Premier to Budget Estimates secretariat, providing witness list for hearing on 25 October 2023
- 26 September 2023 – Email from Ms Rhia Jones, Senior Executive Support Officer, NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption to Budget Estimates secretariat, providing witness list for hearing on 25 October 2023
- 26 September 2023 – Email from Ms Vanessa Gill, Executive Officer, Office of the Auditor-General to Budget Estimates secretariat, providing witness list for hearing on 25 October 2023
- 28 September 2023 – Email from Mr William Coates, Chief of Staff, Office of the President, Legislative Council to Budget Estimates secretariat, providing witness list for hearing on 7 November 2023
- 3 October 2023 – Email from Ms Julie Morris, Executive Support Officer, NSW Electoral Commission to Budget Estimates secretariat, providing witness list for hearing on 25 October 2023
- 3 October 2023 – Email from Ms Emma Ross, Office of the Hon Sophie Cotsis MP, Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Work Health and Safety to Budget Estimates secretariat, providing witness list for hearing on 8 November 2023
- 3 October 2023 – Email from Ms Katherine Burgoyne, Office of the Hon Courtney Houssos MLC, Minister for Finance, Minister for Natural Resources to Budget Estimates secretariat, providing witness list for hearing on 2 November 2023
- 3 October – Email from Mr Jimmy Bai, Office of the Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC, Treasurer to Budget Estimates secretariat, providing witness list for hearing on 31 October 2023
- 3 October 2023 – Email from Mr Rhys Patton, Office of the Hon David Harris MP, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, and Minister for the Central Coast to Budget Estimates secretariat, providing witness list for hearing on 26 October 2023
- 4 October 2023 – Email from Dr Elly Howse, Office of the Hon David Harris MP, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, and Minister for the Central Coast to Budget Estimates secretariat, providing updated witness list for hearing on 26 October 2023
- 9 October 2023 – Email from Ms Rhia Jones, Senior Executive Support Officer, NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption to Budget Estimates secretariat, confirming that two witnesses will not appear at hearing on 25 October 2023
- 16 October 2023 – Email from Mr Andy Meehan, Office of the Hon David Harris MP, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Veterans, Minister for

Medical Research, and Minister for the Central Coast to Budget Estimates secretariat, advising additional requested witness cannot appear at hearing on 26 October 2023

- 16 October 2023 – Email from Ms Sarah King, Associate to Chief Commissioner, Law Enforcement Conduct Commission to Budget Estimates secretariat, requesting additional witness appear at hearing on 25 October 2023
- 25 October 2023 – Email from Ms Jennifer Fatiaki, Executive Officer to the Deputy Commissioner, Public Service Commission to Budget Estimates secretariat, advising that Mr Chris Lamb, Deputy Commissioner, NSW Public Service Commission is unwell and unable to attend the hearing on 25 October 2023.

Sent

- 19 September 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon Chris Minns MP, Premier, issuing request to nominate witnesses for hearing on 25 October 2023
- 19 September 2023 – Letter from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms Margaret Crawford, Auditor-General, issuing request to nominate witnesses for hearing on 25 October 2023
- 19 September 2023 – Letter from Budget Estimates secretariat to Mr John Schmidt, NSW Electoral Commissioner, issuing request to nominate witnesses for hearing on 25 October 2023
- 19 September 2023 – Letter from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon John Hatzistergos AM, Chief Commissioner, NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption, issuing request to nominate witnesses for hearing on 25 October 2023
- 19 September 2023 – Letter from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms Kathrina Lo, Public Service Commissioner, issuing request to nominate witnesses for hearing on 25 October 2023
- 19 September 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon David Harris MP, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, and Minister for the Central Coast, issuing request to nominate witnesses for hearing on 26 October 2023
- 19 September 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC, Treasurer, issuing request to nominate witnesses for hearing on 31 October 2023
- 19 September 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon Courtney Houssos MLC, Minister for Finance, Minister for Natural Resources, issuing request to nominate witnesses for hearing on 2 November 2023
- 19 September 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon Ben Franklin MLC, President of the Legislative Council, issuing request to nominate witnesses for hearing on 7 November 2023
- 19 September 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon Sophie Cotsis MP, Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Work Health and Safety, issuing request to nominate witnesses for hearing on 8 November 2023
- 6 October 2023 - Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC, Treasurer, confirming witnesses for hearing on 31 October 2023
- 6 October 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon Courtney Houssos MLC, Minister for Finance, Minister for Natural Resources, confirming witnesses for hearing on 2 November 2023
- 6 October 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon Ben Franklin MLC, President of the Legislative Council, confirming witnesses for hearing on 7 November 2023
- 6 October 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon Sophie Cotsis MP, Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Work Health and Safety, confirming witnesses for hearing on 8 November 2023
- 9 October 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon Chris Minns MP, Premier, confirming witnesses for hearing on 25 October 2023
- 9 October 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms Vanessa Gill, Executive Officer, Office of the Auditor-General, confirming witnesses for hearing on 25 October 2023

- 9 October 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms Sarah Bradshaw, Executive Officer, Public Service Commission, confirming witnesses for hearing on 25 October 2023
- 9 October 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms Julie Morris, Executive Support Officer, NSW Electoral Commission, confirming witnesses for hearing on 25 October 2023
- 9 October 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms Rhia Jones, Senior Executive Support Officer, NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption, requesting that two witnesses not appear at hearing on 25 October 2023
- 9 October 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon David Harris MP, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, and Minister for the Central Coast, requesting that an additional witness appear at hearing on 26 October 2023
- 10 October 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms Rhia Jones, Senior Executive Support Officer, NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption, confirming witnesses for hearing on 25 October 2023
- 11 October 2023 - Letter from Budget Estimates secretariat to Mr Paul Miller, NSW Ombudsman, issuing request to appear at hearing on 25 October 2023
- 11 October 2023 - Letter from Budget Estimates secretariat to Mr Peter Johnson SC, Chief Commissioner of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission, issuing request to appear at hearing on 25 October 2023
- 18 October 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms Sarah King, Associate to Chief Commissioner, Law Enforcement Conduct Commission, confirming witnesses to appear at hearing on 25 October 2023
- 18 October 2023 - Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Mr Andy Meehan, Office of the Hon David Harris MP, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, and Minister for the Central Coast to Budget Estimates secretariat, accepting advice additional requested witness cannot appear at hearing on 26 October 2023.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2023-2024

4.1 Amended resolution

The committee noted the resolution of the House of 11 October 2023 amending the Budget Estimates 2023-2024 terms of reference.

4.2 Order for examination of portfolios

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2023-2024 resolution each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.15 am to 10.45 am, 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm and 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, and, if required, by Government members only from 10.45 am to 11.00 am, 12.45 pm to 1.00 pm, and 5.15 pm to 5.30 pm.

4.3 Public hearing - Premier

Witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The Hon Chris Minns MP, Premier, was admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding parliamentary privilege 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:

- Mr Simon Draper PSM, Secretary, Premier's Department
- Mr William Murphy PSM, Acting Secretary, The Cabinet Office
- Ms Kate Boyd PSM, Deputy Secretary, General Counsel, The Cabinet Office.

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

The Premier withdrew at 12.48 pm.

The following witnesses were sworn:

- Ms Samara Dobbins, Deputy Secretary, Delivery and Coordination, Premier's Department
- Ms Kate Meagher, Deputy Secretary, Community Engagement Group, Premier's Department.

The witnesses withdrew at 3.29 pm.

Witnesses from independent agencies were admitted at 3.44 pm.

The following witnesses were sworn:

- Ms Kathrina Lo, Public Service Commissioner, NSW Public Service Commission
- Ms Margaret Crawford, Auditor-General, Audit Office of NSW
- Mr Ian Goodwin, Deputy Auditor-General, Audit Office of NSW
- Hon John Hatzistergos AM, Chief Commissioner, NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption
- Mr Darrin Moy, CEO, NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption
- Mr John Schmidt, Commissioner, NSW Electoral Commission
- Mr Matthew Phillips, Executive Director Corporate, NSW Electoral Commission
- Ms Rachel McCallum, Executive Director Funding Disclosure & Compliance and General Counsel, NSW Electoral Commission
- Mr Paul Miller, Ombudsman, NSW Ombudsman
- Mr Peter Johnson SC, Chief Commissioner, Law Enforcement Conduct Commission
- Ms Christina Anderson, Chief Executive Officer, Law Enforcement Conduct Commission.

The public hearing concluded at 5.13 pm. The public and the media withdrew.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5.13 pm until Thursday 26 October 2023, 9.00 am, Preston Stanley Room, Parliament House (public hearing – inquiry into Budget Estimates 2023-2024).

Shaza Barbar

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 10

Thursday 26 October 2023

Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance

Preston Stanley Room, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.00 am

1. Members present

Mr Buckingham, *Chair*

Dr Kaine, *Acting Deputy Chair*

Ms Boyd (participating from 12.02 pm until 12.45 pm and from 3.52 pm until 4.37 pm)

Mr Buttigieg (substituting for Mr Nanva)

Ms Faehrmann (participating via videoconference from 9.22 am until 9.54 am; from 11.44 am until 12.04 pm; from 12.33 pm until 12.45 pm; from 2.00 pm until 3.36 pm and from 4.37 pm)

Ms Higginson (participating from 9.17 am until 11.02 am; from 11.38 am until 11.57 am and from 2.54 pm until 4.51 pm)

Ms Hurst (participating via videoconference from 9.30 am until 10.41 am)

Mr Lawrence

Mrs Mitchell (substituting for Mr Tudehope)

Ms Munro (substituting for Mr Rath)

2. Apologies

Mr Borsak

3. Election of Acting Deputy Chair

In the absence of the Deputy Chair, the Chair called for nominations for Acting Deputy Chair.

Mr Lawrence moved: That Dr Kaine be elected Acting Deputy Chair of the committee for the purpose of the meeting.

There being no further nominations, the Chair declared Dr Kaine Acting Deputy Chair for the purpose of the meeting.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2023-2024

4.1 Order for examination of portfolios

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2023-2024 resolution each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.15 am to 10.45 am, 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm and 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, and, if required, by Government members only from 10.45 am to 11.00 am, 12.45 pm to 1.00 pm, and 5.15 pm to 5.30 pm.

4.2 Public hearing – Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, the Central Coast

Witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The Hon David Harris MP, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, the Central Coast, Medical Research was admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding parliamentary privilege 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:

- Mr Tarek Barakat, Acting CEO, Hospitality and Racing, DEIT
- Ms Elizabeth, Mildwater Secretary, DEIT
- Mr Steve Griffin, CEO, Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission
- Mr Shane Hamilton, Deputy Secretary, Aboriginal Affairs, Premier's Department
- Mr Simon Draper, Secretary, Aboriginal Affairs, Premier's Department
- Dr Jean-Frederic Levesque, Deputy Secretary, Research and Innovation, NSW Health
- Ms Harriet Whyte, Executive Director, Regional Development, Department of Regional NSW
- Ms Caroline Mackaness Director, Office of Veterans Affairs, DCJ
- Mr Philip Crawford, Chief Commissioner, NSW Independent Casino Commission (NICC)
- Ms Caroline Lamb, Chairperson, ILGA.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, the Central Coast, Medical Research open for examination.

The Minister withdrew at 1.01 pm.

The public hearing concluded at 5.04 pm. The public and the media withdrew.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5.05 pm until Tuesday 31 October 2023, 9.00 am, Macquarie Room, Parliament House (public hearing - Budget Estimates 2023-2024).

Kate Mihaljek
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 11

Tuesday 31 October 2023

Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.00 am

1. Members present

Mr Buckingham, *Chair*

Mr Borsak, *Deputy Chair*

Ms Boyd (participating from 9.00 am until 3.30 pm)

Ms Faehrmann (participating from 10.10 am to 3.10 pm)

Ms Higginson (participating from 10.40 am until 3.10 pm)

Dr Kaine

Mr Lawrence

Mr Nanva

Mr Rath

Mr Tudehope

2. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2023-2024**2.1 Order for examination of portfolios**

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2023-2024 resolution each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.15 am to 10.45 am, 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm and 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, and, if required, by Government members only from 10.45 am to 11.00 am, 12.45 pm to 1.00 pm, and 5.15 pm to 5.30 pm.

2.2 Public hearing – Treasurer

Witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding parliamentary privilege and other matters.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter, Secretary, NSW Treasury
- Mr David Deverall, Chief Executive, NSW Treasury Corporation
- Mr Tom Gellibrand, Chief Executive, Infrastructure NSW
- Mr Said Hirsh, Head of Strategy, Planning and Innovation, Infrastructure NSW.

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 Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC, Treasurer was admitted and examined.

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

Ms Higginson tabled the following document(s):

- Blueprint Institute report entitled "Branching Out: Exploring Alternate Land Use Options for the Native Forests of NSW", dated April 2023

The Treasurer withdrew at 12.45 pm.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Ms Marina van der Walt, Deputy Secretary, Financial Management and Services, NSW Treasury
- Ms Liz Livingstone, Deputy Secretary, Policy and Budget, NSW Treasury
- Ms Sonya Campbell, Deputy Secretary, Commercial, NSW Treasury
- Ms Joann Wilkie, Deputy Secretary, Economic Strategy and Productivity, NSW Treasury.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 4.24 pm. The public and the media withdrew.

3. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 4.24 pm until 9.00 am, Thursday 2 November 2023, Preston Stanley Room, Parliament House (public hearing - Budget Estimates 2023-2024).

Jenelle Moore

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 12

Thursday 2 November 2023

Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance

Preston Stanley Room, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.00 am

1. Members present

Mr Buckingham, *Chair*

Mr Borsak, *Deputy Chair* (until 1.00 pm)

Ms Boyd (participating from 9.05 am until 10.10 am, from 11.15 am until 12.46 pm, and from 2.05 pm until 2.44 pm)

Ms Faehrmann (participating from 11.17 am until 11.50 am)

Dr Kaine

Mr Lawrence

Mrs Mitchell (participating until 1.00 pm)

Mr Nanva

Mr Rath (from 10.23 am)

Mr Tudehope

2. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of the Mr Lawrence: that draft minutes nos. 9 and 10 be confirmed.

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 25 October 2023 – Email from Ms Alice Boyd, Office of the Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC, Treasurer, seeking to amend witness list for hearing on 31 October 2023
- 26 October 2023 – Email from Mr Josh Wright, Office of the Hon Anoulack Chanthivong MP, Minister for Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Innovation, Science and Technology, Minister for Building, and Minister for Corrections to Budget Estimates secretariat, advising that two witnesses for hearing on 8 November are also appearing at Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety hearing on the same day
- 1 November 2023 – Email from Ms Michelle Kelly, Director, Executive & Ministerial Services, Office of the Secretary, Treasury to Budget Estimates secretariat, requesting that Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter, Secretary only appear in the morning session and Ms Liz Livingstone, Deputy Secretary, Policy and Budget only appear in the afternoon session for the hearing on 2 November.

Sent

- 27 October 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms Alice Boyd, Office of the Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC, Treasurer, confirming committee agrees to amend witness list for hearing on 31 October 2023 as requested
- 30 October 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Mr Josh Wright, Office of the Hon Anoulack Chanthivong MP, Minister for Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Innovation, Science and Technology, Minister for Building, and Minister for Corrections, advising that two witnesses for hearing on 8 November are not required to attend the Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety hearing at the same time.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2023-2024

4.1 Order for examination of portfolios

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2023-2024 resolution each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.15 am to 10.45 am, 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm and 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, and, if required, by Government members only from 10.45 am to 11.00 am, 12.45 pm to 1.00 pm, and 5.15 pm to 5.30 pm.

4.2 Witness appearance times for the public hearing on 2 November

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Lawrence: That the committee accept the request from Ms Michelle Kelly, Director, Executive & Ministerial Services, Office of the Secretary, Treasury to the Budget Estimates secretariat, dated 1 November 2023, that Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter, Secretary, Treasury only appear in the morning session and that Ms Liz Livingstone, Deputy Secretary, Policy and Budget, Treasury only appear in the afternoon session for the hearing on 2 November.

4.3 Public hearing

Witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding parliamentary privilege and other matters.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Ms Mandy Young, Deputy Secretary, Chief Commissioner of State Revenue, Commissioner of Fines Administration, Revenue NSW
- Mr Cullen Smythe, Executive Director, Technical and Advisory Services, Commissioner of State Revenue, Revenue NSW
- Ms Georgina Beattie, CEO, Mining Exploration and Geoscience, Department of Regional NSW.

The following witnesses were examined on their former oath:

- Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter, Secretary, Treasury
- Ms Sonya Campbell, Deputy Secretary, Commercial, Treasury.

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 Hon Courtney Houssos MLC, Minister for Finance, Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, Natural Resources was admitted and examined.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Finance, Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, Natural Resources open for examination.

Mr Rath tendered the following documents:

- Series of social media posts by the Hon Chris Minns MP relating to building ferries in New South Wales (various dates)
- Article from the Rail Tram & Bus Union website titled 'NSW Workers launch campaign to build public transport here'.

The Minister and Mr Coutts-Trotter withdrew at 12.55 pm.

The following witness was sworn and examined:

- Mr Peter Day, Executive Director, NSW Resources Regulator, Department of Regional NSW

The following witness was examined on their former oath:

- Ms Liz Livingstone, Deputy Secretary, Policy and Budget, NSW Treasury

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 3.33 pm. The public and the media withdrew.

4.4 Tendered documents

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Lawrence: That the committee accept and publish the following documents tendered by Mr Rath:

- Series of social media posts by the Hon Chris Minns MP relating to building ferries in New South Wales (various dates)
- Article from the Rail Tram & Bus Union website titled 'NSW Workers launch campaign to build public transport here'.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 3.35 pm until Tuesday 7 November 2023, 1.45 pm, Room 814, Parliament House (public hearing – inquiry into Budget Estimates 2023-2024).

Frances Arguelles

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 13

Tuesday 7 November 2023

Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance

Room 814, Parliament House, Sydney at 1.50 pm

1. Members present

Mr Buckingham, *Chair*

Ms Boyd (participating from 2.00 pm until 2.59 pm)

Mr Buttigieg (substituting for Mr Nanva)

Mr Fang (substituting for Mr Tudehope)

Mr Primrose (substituting for Dr Kaine)

Mr Rath

Ms Suvaal (substituting for Mr Lawrence)

2. Previous minutes

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

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Sent:

- 1 November 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Hon Chris Minns MP, Premier, issuing uncorrected transcript, questions on notice, and supplementary questions from hearing on 25 October 2023
- 2 November 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Hon David Harris MP, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, and Minister for the Central Coast, issuing uncorrected transcript, questions on notice, and supplementary questions from hearing on 26 October 2023.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2023-2024

4.1 Order for examination of portfolios

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2023-2024 resolution:

- each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.15 am to 10.45 am, 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm and 3.45 pm to

5.15 pm, and, if required, by Government members only from 10.45 am to 11.00 am, 12.45 pm to 1.00 pm, and 5.15 pm to 5.30 pm

- the portfolio of The Legislature be examined by Opposition, Crossbench and Government members from 2.00 pm until 5.30 pm.

4.2 Public hearing – The Legislature

Witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding parliamentary privilege and other matters.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Mr David Blunt, Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Council, Legislative Council, Parliament of NSW
- Mr Mark Webb, Chief Executive Officer, Department of Parliamentary Services, Parliament of NSW
- Ms Jocelyn Webb, Director, Financial Services & Governance, Department of Parliamentary Services, Parliament of NSW.

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 Hon Ben Franklin MLC, President of the Legislative Council was admitted and examined.

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

Mr Fang tendered the following documents:

- Email from President dated 2 June 2023, subject "Recent events"
- Copy of Schedule 1 to the Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1989
- Copy of Parliamentary Remuneration Amendment (Leader of the Opposition) Regulation 2019.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 5.30 pm. The public and the media withdrew.

4.3 Tendered documents

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Fang: That the committee accept and publish the following documents tendered during the public hearing:

- Email from President dated 2 June 2023, subject "Recent events", tendered by Mr Fang
- Copy of Schedule 1 to the Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1989, tendered by Mr Fang
- Copy of Parliamentary Remuneration Amendment (Leader of the Opposition) Regulation 2019, tendered by Mr Fang.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5.32 pm until Wednesday 8 November 2023, 9.00am, Macquarie Room, Parliament House (public hearing – inquiry into Budget Estimates 2023-2024).

Sharon Ohnesorge
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 14

Wednesday 8 November 2023

Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance

Preston Stanley Room, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.03 am

1. Members present

Mr Buckingham, *Chair*

Mr Borsak, *Deputy Chair* (until 12.47 pm)

Ms Boyd (participating from 9.08 am until 2.42 pm)

Dr Kaine
Mr Lawrence
Mr Nanva
Mr Rath
Mr Tudehope

2. Declaration of interests

Dr Kaine declared that she used to work in the same area as some of the witnesses appearing at the hearing.

3. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2023-2024

3.1 Order for examination of portfolios

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2023-2024 resolution each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.15 am to 10.45 am, 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm and 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, and, if required, by Government members only from 10.45 am to 11.00 am, 12.45 pm to 1.00 pm, and 5.15 pm to 5.30 pm.

3.2 Public hearing – Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety

Witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding parliamentary privilege and other matters.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Mr Richard Harding, CEO and Managing Director, icare
- Mr Stuart Farquharson, Chief Financial Officer, icare
- Mr Trent Curtin, Deputy Secretary SafeWork NSW, Department of Customer Service
- Mr Charlie Heuston, Executive Director, Industrial Relations, Premier's Department.

The following witnesses were examined on their former oath:

- Ms Sonya Campbell, Deputy Secretary, Commercial, NSW Treasury
- Mr Simon Draper, Secretary, Premier's Department
- Ms Samara Dobbins, Deputy Secretary Delivery & Coordination, Premier's Department.

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 Hon Sophie Cotsis MP, Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Work Health and Safety was admitted and examined.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety open for examination.

The Minister withdrew at 12.47pm.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 3.32 pm. The public and the media withdrew.

4. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 3.33pm, *sine die*.

Vanessa O'Loan
Committee Clerk
Minutes no. 15
Wednesday 21 February 2024

Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance
Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.00 am

1. Members present

Mr Buckingham, *Chair*
Mr Borsak, *Deputy Chair* (until 2.36 pm)
Ms Boyd (participating, from 11.15 am, until 2.39 pm, from 3.54 pm)
Dr Kaine (until 3.01 pm)
Ms Higginson (participating, until 10.18 am, from 11.15 am)
Mr Primrose (substituting for Mr Lawrence, until 2.06 pm, from 4.13 pm)
Mrs Mitchell (substituting for Mr Rath)
Mr Nanva (until 11.45 am, from 2.57 pm, until 4.29 pm, from 4.47 pm)
Mr Tudehope

2. Previous minutes

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

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 27 November 2023 – Letter from the Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC, Treasurer, to the Chair, seeking clarifications to his evidence given at the Portfolio Committee No.1 Treasurer hearing on 31 October 2023
- 22 December 2023 – Email from Ms Sarah Bradshaw, Public Service Commission, confirming the attendance of witnesses at the independent agency afternoon panel at the Premier hearing on 21 February 2024
- 22 December 2023 – Email from Ms Julie Morris, NSW Electoral Commission, confirming the attendance of witnesses at the independent agency afternoon panel at the Premier hearing on 21 February 2024
- 15 January 2024 – Email from Ms Vanessa Gill, Office of the Auditor-General, confirming the attendance of witnesses at the independent agency afternoon panel at the Premier hearing on 21 February 2024
- 16 January 2024 – Email from Ms Cathy Ciano, NSW Ombudsman, requesting the committee to confirm whether the NSW Ombudsman must attend the independent agency afternoon panel at the Premier hearing on 21 February 2024
- 18 January 2024 – Email from Mr William Coates, the Office of the President, responding to the witness invitation for the Legislature hearing on 21 February 2024
- 23 January 2024 – Email from Ms Casey Silman, NSW Ministry of Health to the Budget Estimates secretariat, requesting Dr Jean-Frederic Levesque's title be amended to Deputy Secretary, Clinical Innovation and Research
- 31 January 2024 – Email from Ms Cara Punch, Office of the Hon Chris Minns MP, to secretariat responding to the witness invitation for the Budget Estimates Premier additional hearing on 21 February 2024
- 31 January 2024 – Email from Ms Emma Ross, Office of the Hon Sophie Cotsis MP, to secretariat, responding to the witness invitation for the Budget Estimates Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety additional hearing on 29 February 2024
- 31 January 2024 – Email from Mr Taylor Rundell, Office of the Hon Courtney Houssos MLC, responding to the witness invitation for the Budget Estimates Finance, Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, National Resources additional hearing on 7 March 2024

- 5 February 2024 – Email from Ms Kristin Renzenbrink, Office of the Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC, responding to the witness invitation for the Budget Estimates Treasurer additional hearing on 1 March 2024
- 6 February 2024 – Email from Ms Sarah King, Law Enforcement Conduct Commission, confirming the attendance of all invited witnesses to the independent agencies afternoon panel at the Budget Estimates Premier additional hearing on 21 February 2024
- 6 February 2024 – Email from Ms Rhia Jones, NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption, responding to the witness invitation for the independent agencies afternoon panel at the Budget Estimates Premier additional hearing on 21 February 2024
- 6 February 2024 – Email from Ms Di Ford, Office of the Hon David Harris MP, confirming the attendance of all invited witnesses at the Budget Estimates Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, the Central Coast, Medical Research additional hearing on 22 February 2024
- 6 February 2024 – Email from Ms Di Ford, Office of the Hon David Harris MP, confirming the position title of Dr Jean-Frederic Leveque is Deputy Secretary, Clinical Innovation and Research, witness for the Budget Estimates Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, the Central Coast, Medical Research additional hearing on 22 February 2024
- 12 February 2024 – Email from Ms Kristin Renzenbrink, of the Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC, requesting amendments to the witness times for the Budget Estimates Treasurer additional hearing on 1 March 2024.

Sent

- 6 November 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Hon Daniel Mookhey MP, Treasurer, issuing uncorrected transcript, questions on notice, and supplementary questions from hearing on 31 October 2023
- 8 November 2023 - Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Hon Courtney Houssos MLC, Minister for Finance, Minister for Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement and Minister for Natural resources, issuing uncorrected transcript, questions on notice, and supplementary questions from hearing on 31 October 2023
- 14 November 2023 - Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Hon Sophie Cotsis MP, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Work Health and Safety, issuing uncorrected transcript, questions on notice, and supplementary questions from hearing on 8 November 2023
- 16 November 2023 - Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Hon Ben Franklin MLC, President of the Legislative Council of NSW, issuing uncorrected transcript, questions on notice, and supplementary questions from hearing on 7 November 2023
- 8 December 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC, Treasurer, enclosing additional question on notice from hearing on 31 October 2023
- 21 December 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Commissioner Kathrina Lo, Public Service Commissioner, Public Service Commission, inviting witnesses to the hearing on 21 February 2024
- 21 December 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Mr John Schmidt, Commissioner, NSW Electoral Commission, inviting witnesses to the hearing on 21 February 2024
- 21 December 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Mr Paul Miller, Ombudsman, NSW Ombudsman, inviting witnesses to the hearing on 21 February 2024
- 21 December 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms Margaret Crawford, Auditor-General, Audit Office of New South Wales, inviting witnesses to the hearing on 21 February 2024
- 21 December 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Mr Peter Johnson SC, Chief Commissioner, Law Enforcement Conduct Commission, inviting witnesses to the hearing on 21 February 2024

- 21 December 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon John Hatzistergos AM, Chief Commissioner, NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption, inviting witnesses to the hearing on 21 February 2024
- 22 December 2023 - Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon Courtney Houssos MLC, Minister for Finance, Minister for Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, and Minister for Natural Resources, inviting witnesses to the hearing on 7 March 2024
- 22 December 2023 - Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon David Harris MP, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, and Minister for the Central Coast, inviting witnesses to the hearing on 22 February 2024
- 22 December 2023 - Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon Sophie Cotsis MP, Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Work Health and Safety, inviting witnesses to the hearing on 29 February 2024
- 22 December 2023 - Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC, Treasurer, inviting witnesses to the hearing on 1 March 2024
- 22 December 2023 - Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon Ben Franklin MLC, President of the Legislative Council of NSW, inviting witnesses to the hearing on 4 March 2024
- 22 December 2023 - Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon Chris Minns MP, Premier, inviting witnesses to the hearing on 21 February 2024
- 15 January 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms Sarah Bradshaw, Public Service Commission, confirming witness attendance at the hearing on 21 February 2024
- 15 January 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms Julie Morris, NSW Electoral Commission, confirming witness attendance at the hearing on 21 February 2024
- 15 January 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms Vanessa Gill, Office of the Auditor-General, confirming witness attendance of witnesses at the hearing on 21 February 2024
- 22 January 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms Cathy Ciano, NSW Ombudsman's office, confirming that Mr Paul Miller, NSW Ombudsman, does not need to attend the independent agency afternoon panel at the Premier hearing on 21 February 2024
- 24 January 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Mr William Coates, Office of the President, confirming witness list for the Budget Estimates Legislature hearing on March 2024
- 5 February 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms Kristin Renzenbrink, Office of the Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC, confirming whether witnesses are confirmed to attend the Budget Estimates Treasurer additional hearing on 1 March 2024
- 6 February 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms Kristin Renzenbrink, Office of the Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC, advising that if the Treasurer wishes for witnesses to appear at alternate times for the Budget Estimates Treasurer additional hearing on 1 March 2024, this request must be made in writing for the committee to consider
- 6 February 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon David Harris MP, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, and Minister for the Central Coast, requesting response to the witness invitation to Budget Estimates Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, the Central Coast, Medical Research additional hearing 22 February 2024
- 6 February 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms Sarah King, Law Enforcement Conduct Commission, attaching confirmed witness list and hearing information for the Premier's hearing afternoon panel on 21 February 2024
- 6 February 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms Di Ford, Office of the Hon David Harris MP, confirming the position title of Dr Jean-Frederic Levesque's, witness for the Budget

Estimates Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, the Central Coast, Medical Research additional hearing on 22 February 2024

- 7 February 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms Di Ford, Office of the Hon David Harris MP, attaching confirmed witness list and hearing information for the Budget Estimates Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, the Central Coast, Medical Research additional hearing on 22 February 2024
- 8 February 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms Cara Punch, Office of the Hon Chris Minns MP, advising that the committee has agreed to the Premier's proposed amendments to the Budget Estimates Premier additional hearing witness list, attaching final witness list and hearing information for Premier additional hearing on 21 February 2024
- 13 February 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Mr Taylor Rundell, Office of the Hon Courtney Houssos MLC, advising the committee has accepted the Minister's proposed changes to the witness list, attaching confirmed witness list and hearing information for the Budget Estimates Finance, Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, Natural Resources additional hearing on 7 March 2024
- 13 February 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms Emma Ross, Office of the Hon Sophie Cotsis MP, advising the committee has accepted the Minister's proposed changes to the witness list, attaching confirmed witness list and hearing information for the Budget Estimates Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety additional hearing on 29 February 2024
- 13 February 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms Rhia Jones, Independent Commission Against Corruption, advising the committee has accepted the agency's proposed changes to the witness list, attaching confirmed witness list and hearing information for the Budget Estimates Premier's additional hearing independent agencies afternoon panel on 21 February 2024.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2023-2024

4.1 Resolution for additional hearings

Committee noted the resolution of the House on 30 November 2023 to conduct additional hearings for the inquiry into Budget Estimates 2023-2024.

4.2 Order for examination of portfolios

Committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2023-2024 resolution on 30 November 2023 each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.15 am to 10.45 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 10.45 am, 12.45 pm and 5.15 pm, if required.

4.3 Witness lists

Committee noted that as agreed via email, arrangements for the additional hearings were agreed to over email in the first instance, rather than holding a meeting (unless a meeting was required to resolve any disagreement).

In addition, it was agreed that:

- the confirmed witness lists from the initial round of hearings (October-November 2023) be the proposed witness lists for the additional round of hearings (February 2024)
- committee members be given two days following receipt of the proposed witness lists to provide any feedback or additional witnesses, as per the practice adopted for the initial round of hearings
- responses from ministers' offices to witness invitations be due by 31 January 2024.

4.4 Public hearing – Premier

Witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding parliamentary privilege 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 Hon Chris Minns MP, Premier was admitted and examined.

The following witness was examined on their former oath:

- Mr Simon Draper PSM, Secretary, Premier's Department.

The following witness was sworn and examined:

- Ms Kate Boyd PSM, Acting Secretary, The Cabinet Office.

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

Mr Tudehope tabling the following document:

- Table, '\$400k local commitments master list'.

The Premier withdrew at 12.45 pm.

The following witnesses were examined on their former oath:

- Ms Samara Dobbins, Deputy Secretary, Delivery and Coordination, Premier's Department
- Ms Kate Meagher, Deputy Secretary, Community Engagement Group, Premier's Department

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Ms Gillian White, Deputy Secretary, Social Policy and National Reform Group, The Cabinet Office
- Mr Marcus Ray, Deputy Secretary, Economic and Environment Policy Group, The Cabinet Office.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The following witnesses were examined on their former oath:

- Ms Kathrina Lo, Public Service Commissioner, NSW Public Service Commission
- Ms Margaret Crawford, Auditor-General, Audit Office of NSW
- Mr Ian Goodwin, Deputy Auditor-General, Audit Office of NSW
- Hon John Hatzistergos AM, Chief Commissioner, NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption
- Mr Darrin Moy, CEO, NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption
- Mr John Schmidt, Commissioner, NSW Electoral Commission
- Mr Matthew Phillips, Executive Director Corporate, NSW Electoral Commission
- Ms Rachel McCallum, Executive Director Funding Disclosure & Compliance and General Counsel, NSW Electoral Commission
- Hon Peter Johnson SC, Chief Commissioner, Law Enforcement Conduct Commission
- Ms Christina Anderson, Chief Executive Officer, Law Enforcement Conduct Commission.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Mr Chris Lamb, Deputy Commissioner, NSW Public Service Commission
- Ms Michelle Ward, Executive Director Corporate Services, NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 5.11 pm. The public and the media withdrew.

4.5 Tended documents

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Tudehope: That the committee accept and publish the following document tabled during the public hearing:

- Table, '\$400k local commitments master list'.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5.12 pm until Thursday 22 February 2024, 9.00 am, Preston Stanley Room, Parliament House (public hearing - Budget Estimates 2023-2024).

Laura Ismay

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 16

Thursday 22 February 2024

Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance

Preston Stanley Room, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.00 am

1. Members present

Mr Buckingham, *Chair*

Mr Borsak, *Deputy Chair* (from 9.05 am until 9.46 am, then from 10.08 am until 11.37 am, then from 12.05 pm until 12.46 pm)

Ms Boyd (participating) (from 9.05 am until 12.01 pm, then from 2.52 pm until 3.24 pm)

Ms Faehrmann (participating) (from 10.08 am until 10.40 am, then from 2.45 pm until 3.14 pm)

Ms Higginson (participating) (from 9.26 am until 10.06 am, then from 11.15 am until 12.45 pm, then from 2.05 pm until 2.45 pm)

Ms Hurst (participating) (from 9.05 am until 12.45 pm)

Dr Kaine (until 12.50 pm, then from 2.58 pm until 4.13 pm)

Mr Latham (from 9.05 am until 2.43 pm)

Mr Lawrence (until 10.00 am, then from 10.13 am until 10.37 am, then from 11.15 am until 2.38 pm, then from 3.45 pm until 4.11 pm)

Mrs Mitchell (from 9.05 am) (substituting for Mr Tudehope)

Ms Munro (substituting for Mr Rath)

Mr Primrose (substituting for Mr Nanva) (until 12.50 pm, then from 4.10 pm)

Mr Tudehope (participating) (from 11.15 am until 12.45 pm, then from 3.45 pm until 3.57 pm)

2. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received:

- 19 February 2024 – Email from Ms Kristin Renzenbrink, Office of the Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC, asking whether the committee has considered the request of the Treasurer that witnesses appear in time batches at the Budget Estimate Treasurer hearing on 1 March 2024.

Sent:

- 19 February 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms Kristin Renzenbrink, Office of the Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC, advising the committee is considering the request that witnesses appear in time batches at the Budget Estimate Treasurer hearing on 1 March 2024.

3. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2023-2024

3.1 Order for examination of portfolios

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2023-2024 resolution on 30 November 2023 each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.15 am to 10.45 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 10.45 am, 12.45 pm and 5.15 pm, if required.

3.2 Public hearing – Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, the Central Coast, Medical Research

Witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding parliamentary privilege 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 Hon David Harris MP, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, the Central Coast, Medical Research was admitted and examined.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Dr Jean-Frederic Levesque, Deputy Secretary, Clinical Innovation and Research, NSW Health
- Ms Harriet Whyte, Executive Director, Regional Coordination and Delivery, Department of Regional NSW.

The following witnesses were examined on their former oath:

- Mr Tarek Barakat, Acting CEO, Hospitality and Racing, Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade
- Ms Elizabeth, Mildwater Secretary, Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade
- Mr Steve Griffin, CEO, Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission
- Mr Shane Hamilton, Deputy Secretary, Aboriginal Affairs, Premiers Department
- Mr Simon Draper, Secretary (for Aboriginal Affairs), Premier's Department
- Ms Caroline Mackaness Director, Office of Veterans Affairs, Department of Communities and Justice
- Mr Philip Crawford, Chief Commissioner, NSW Independent Casino Commission
- Ms Caroline Lamb, Chairperson, Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, the Central Coast, Medical Research open for examination.

The Minister withdrew at 12:50 pm.

Ms Hurst tabled the following documents:

- Ray Thomas, 'World's richest harness race the crowning glory for John Dumesny', www.racenet.com.au, 1 September 2023
- Elloise Farrow-Smith and Donna Harper, 'Lifetime greyhound industry ban for breeder after dogs found bashed to death', *ABC News*, 13 February 2024.

Ms Harriet Whyte withdrew at 3:47 pm.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 4:29 pm. The public and the media withdrew.

3.3 Tendered documents

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Mitchell: That the committee accept the following documents tabled during the public hearing:

- Ray Thomas, 'World's richest harness race the crowning glory for John Dumesny', www.racenet.com.au, 1 September 2023
- Elloise Farrow-Smith and Donna Harper, 'Lifetime greyhound industry ban for breeder after dogs found bashed to death', *ABC News*, 13 February 2024.

4. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 4:29 pm until Thursday 29 February, 9.00 am, Macquarie Room, Parliament House (public hearing - Budget Estimates 2023-2024).

Talina Drabsch
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 17

Thursday 29 February 2024

Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.00 am

1. Members presentMr Buckingham, *Chair*Mr Borsak, *Deputy Chair* (until 12.48 pm)

Ms Boyd (participating) (until 2.44 pm)

Dr Kaine (until 3.03 pm)

Mr Lawrence (until 12.27 pm and then from 2.57 pm)

Mr Nanva (until 12.48 pm)

Mr Rath (until 12.48 pm)

Mr Tudehope

2. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Dr Kaine: That draft minutes nos. 15 and 16 be confirmed.

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 26 February 2024 – Email from Ms Christina Anderson, Law Enforcement Conduct Commission, clarifying evidence provided by Chief Commissioner Peter Johnson SC at the Portfolio Committee No. 1 Premier, independent agencies afternoon panel on 21 February 2024.

Sent

- 20 February 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates to Ms Kristin Renzenbrink, Office of the Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC, advising the committee accepts the Treasurer's proposed amendments to the witness list, attaching confirmed witness list and hearing information for the Budget Estimates Treasurer hearing on 1 March 2024.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Tudehope: That the committee:

- publish the email from Ms Christina Anderson, Law Enforcement Conduct Commission, clarifying evidence provided by Chief Commissioner Peter Johnson SC at the Portfolio Committee No. 1 Premier, independent agencies afternoon panel on 21 February 2024
- insert a footnote at the relevant point in the transcript from 21 February 2024 noting that correspondence clarifying the evidence had been received and providing a hyperlink to the published correspondence.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2023-2024**4.1 Order for examination of portfolios**

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2023-2024 resolution on 30 November 2023 each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.15 am to 10.45 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 10.45 am, 12.45 pm and 5.15 pm, if required.

4.2 Public hearing – Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety

Witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding parliamentary privilege 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 Hon Sophie Cotsis MP, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Work Health and Safety was admitted and examined.

The following witnesses were examined on their former oath:

- Mr Richard Harding, CEO and Managing Director, icare
- Mr Stuart Farquharson, Chief Financial Officer, icare
- Mr Trent Curtin, Deputy Secretary SafeWork NSW, Department of Customer Service
- Mr Charlie Heuston, Executive Director, Industrial Relations, Premier's Department
- Ms Sonya Campbell, Deputy Secretary, Commercial, NSW Treasury
- Mr Simon Draper, Secretary, Premier's Department
- Ms Samara Dobbins, Deputy Secretary Delivery & Coordination, Premier's Department

The following witness was sworn:

- Mr Graeme Head, Secretary, Department of Customer Service

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Industrial Relations, and Work Health and Safety open for examination.

Mr Draper withdrew at 10.45 am and returned at 11.35 am.

The Minister withdrew at 12.48 pm.

Ms Dobbins withdrew at 2.59 pm.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 3.33 pm. The public and the media withdrew.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 3.33 pm until Friday 1 March 2024 9.00 am, Macquarie Room, Parliament House (public hearing - Budget Estimates 2023-2024).

Vanessa O'Loan
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 18

Friday 1 March 2024

Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.02 am

1. Members present

Mr Buckingham, *Chair*

Mr Borsak, *Deputy Chair* (from 10.21 am until 11.15 am, from 12.46 pm)

Ms Boyd (participating from 11.25 am until 12.00 pm, from 2.38 pm)

Mr Fang (participating until 12.46 pm)

Mr Farlow (substituting for Mr Tudehope)

Ms Higginson (participating from 11.20 am until 12.27 pm)

Dr Kaine (until 12.46 pm, from 2.55 pm)

Mr Lawrence

Mr Nanva (until 12.46 pm)

Mr Rath

1. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2023-2024

1.1 Order for examination of portfolios

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2023-2024 resolution on 30 November 2023 each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.15 am to 10.45 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 10.45 am, 12.45 pm and 5.15 pm, if required.

1.2 Public hearing – Treasurer

Witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding parliamentary privilege 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 Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC, Treasurer was admitted and examined.

The following witnesses were examined under their former oath:

- Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter, Secretary, NSW Treasury

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

The Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC tendered the following document:

- Memorandum of Understanding between the NSW Government through Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade and Australian Turf Club.

The Minister withdrew at 12.46 pm.

The following witnesses were examined under their former oath (from 2.00 pm):

- Mr David Deverall, Chief Executive, NSW Treasury Corporation
- Mr Tom Gellibrand, Chief Executive, Infrastructure NSW
- Mr Said Hirsh, Head of Strategy, Planning and Innovation, Infrastructure NSW
- Ms Marina van der Walt, Deputy Secretary, Financial Management and Services, NSW Treasury
- Ms Elizabeth (Liz) Livingstone, Deputy Secretary, Policy and Budget, NSW Treasury
- Ms Sonya Campbell, Deputy Secretary, Commercial, NSW Treasury.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 2.57 pm. The public and the media withdrew.

1.3 Tendered documents

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Farlow: That the committee accept and publish the following documents tendered during the public hearing:

- Memorandum of Understanding between the NSW Government through Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade and the Australian Turf Club, tendered by the Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC.

2. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 2.58 pm until Monday 4 March 2024 9.00 am, Preston Stanley room, Parliament House (public hearing - Budget Estimates 2023-2024).

Shaza Barbar

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 19

Monday 4 March 2024

Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance

Preston Stanley Room, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.00 am

1. Members present

Mr Buckingham, *Chair*
 Mr Borsak, *Deputy Chair*
 Ms Boyd (participating) (from 10.08 am to 12.10 pm, and from 12.32 pm)
 Mr Fang (substituting for Mr Tudehope)
 Mr Latham (participating)
 Ms Higginson (participating) (from 12.12 pm to 12.35 pm)
 Mr Murphy (substituting for Dr Kaine)
 Mr Nanva
 Mr Primrose (substituting for Mr Lawrence)
 Mr Rath

2. Publication of tabled document

Resolved, on the motion by Mr Rath: That the committee authorise the publication of the Memorandum of Understanding between the NSW Government through Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade and the Australian Turf Club, tabled by the Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC on 1 March 2024, with the exception of identifying and/or sensitive information which is to remain confidential, as per the recommendation of the secretariat.

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 27 February 2024 – Email from Ms Emma Ross, Office of the Hon Sophie Cotsis MP, to secretariat, requesting that a witness appear until 3.00 pm for the Budget Estimates Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety hearing on 29 February 2024
- 28 February 2024 – Email from Ms Emma Ross, Office of the Hon Sophie Cotsis MP, to secretariat, providing a reason for the request that a witness appear until 3.00 pm for the Budget Estimates Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety hearing on 29 February 2024.

Sent

- 27 February 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms Emma Ross, Office of the Hon Sophie Cotsis MP, advising that the secretariat will circulate the request for a witness to appear until 3.00 pm to the committee, for the Budget Estimates Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety hearing on 29 February 2024
- 27 February 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon Chris Minns MP, Premier, issuing uncorrected transcript, questions on notice, and supplementary questions from the hearing on 21 February 2024.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2023-2024**4.1 Order for examination of portfolios**

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2023-2024 resolution on 30 November 2023 the portfolio of The Legislature be examined by Opposition, Crossbench and Government members from 9.15 am to 11.00 am, and from 11.15 am to 1.00 pm.

4.2 Public hearing – The Legislature

Witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding parliamentary privilege 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 Hon Ben Franklin MLC, President of the Legislative Council was admitted and examined.

The following witnesses were examined on their former oath:

- Mr David Blunt, Clerk of the Parliaments

- Mr Mark Webb, CEO Department of Parliamentary Services.

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

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Borsak: That the committee hold a private deliberative meeting.

The witnesses, the public and the media withdrew at 10.25 am.

4.3 Private deliberative meeting

The committee deliberated.

4.4 Public hearing – The Legislature

The witnesses, the public and the media were readmitted at 10.29 am.

Mr Fang tabled the following document:

- Emails exchanges regarding the provision of media summaries to members.

Mr Latham tabled the following document:

- Electoral Allowance Financial Reports regarding Ms Abigail Boyd MLC dated 2018 to 2023.

Mr Fang tabled the following document:

- Hansard extract dated 30 November 2023.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 1.02 pm. The public and the media withdrew.

4.5 Tended documents

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Rath: That the committee accept and publish the following documents tabled during the public hearing:

- Email exchanges regarding the provision of media summaries to members, tendered by Mr Fang, with the exception of identifying and/or sensitive information which is to remain confidential, as per the recommendation of the secretariat.
- Electoral Allowance Financial Reports regarding Ms Abigail Boyd MLC dated 2018 to 2023, tendered by Mr Latham, with the exception of identifying and/or sensitive information which is to remain confidential, as per the recommendation of the secretariat.
- Hansard extract dated 30 November 2023, tendered by Mr Fang.

4.6 Referral to the Procedure Committee

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Borsak: That the Chair, on behalf of the committee, give a notice of motion in the House to refer to the Procedure Committee the matter of processes for dealing with disorder by members during committee proceedings.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 1.08 pm until Thursday 7 March, 9.00 am, Preston Stanley room, Parliament House (public hearing - Budget Estimates 2023-2024).

Sharon Ohnesorge
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 20

Thursday 7 March 2024

Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance

Preston Stanley Room, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.01 am

1. Members present

Mr Buckingham, *Chair*

Ms Boyd (participating) (from 11.18 am until 11.59 am)

Ms Faehrmann (participating) (from 9.58 am until 10.52 am, then from 11.53 am until 12.46 pm, then from 3.00 pm)

Dr Kaine (from 9.01 am until 12.46 pm, then from 3.08 pm)

Mr Lawrence (from 9.01 am until 10.53 am, then from 11.24 am until 12.46 pm)

Mrs Mitchell (participating) (from 9.03 am until 12.46 pm)

Mr Nanva (from 9.01 am until 3.26 pm)

Mr Rath (from 9.02 am until 3:30 pm, then from 3.48 pm)

Mr Tudehope (from 9.02 am)

2. Apologies

Mr Borsak, *Deputy Chair*

3. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Nanva: That draft minutes nos. 17, 18 and 19 be confirmed.

4. Election of Deputy Chair for the Finance, Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, Natural Resources

The Chair called for nominations for Deputy Chair.

Dr Kaine moved: That Mr Nanva be elected Deputy Chair of the committee for the purposes of the hearing.

There being no further nominations, the Chair declared Mr Nanva elected Deputy Chair for the purposes of the hearing.

5. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 29 February 2024 – Email from Ms Helen Vallance, Office of the Secretary Premier's Department, to the Budget Estimates secretariat, advising of a witness request to return 25 minutes after the morning tea break, including an email from the witness with this request, for the Budget Estimates Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety hearing on 29 February 2024
- 29 February 2024 – Email from Ms Courtney Taylor, NSW Treasury, to the Budget Estimates secretariat, requesting amendments to the witness list for the Budget Estimates Finance, Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, Natural Resources hearing on 7 March 2024
- 1 March 2024 – Email from Ms Courtney Taylor, NSW Treasury, to the Budget Estimates secretariat, advising a witness is unable to attend the Budget Estimates Treasurer hearing for the afternoon session on 1 March 2024
- 4 March 2024 – Email from Ms Courtney Taylor, NSW Treasury, to the Budget Estimates secretariat, asking whether the committee had considered the proposed amendments to the witness list for the Budget Estimates Finance, Domestic Manufacturing, Government Procurement, Natural Resources hearing on 7 March 2024.

Sent

- 28 February 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon David Harris MP, issuing uncorrected transcript, questions on notice and supplementary questions from the hearing on 22 February 2024
- 28 February 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat Ms Emma Ross, Office of the Hon Sophie Cotsis MP, advising the committee has agreed to the witness appearing until 3.00 pm and attaching confirmed witness list for the Budget Estimates Industrial Relations, Works Health and Safety hearing on 29 February 2024
- 4 March 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms Courtney Taylor, NSW Treasury, confirming the committee has agreed to the Minister's requested amendments to the witness list,

attaching confirmed witness list and hearing information for the Budget Estimates Finance, Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, Natural Resources hearing on 7 March 2024.

6. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2023-2024

6.1 Order for examination of portfolios

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2023-2024 resolution on 30 November 2023 each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.15 am to 10.45 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 10.45 am, 12.45 pm and 5.15 pm, if required.

6.2 Public hearing – Finance, Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, Natural Resources

Witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding parliamentary privilege 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 Hon Courtney Houssos MLC, Minister for Finance, Minister for Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, Minister for Natural Resources was admitted and examined.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Mr Scott Johnston, Deputy Secretary, Chief Commissioner of State Revenue, Commissioner of Fines Administration, Revenue NSW

The following witnesses were examined on their former oath:

- Mr Cullen Smythe, Executive Director, Technical and Advisory Services, Commissioner of State Revenue, Revenue NSW
- Ms Georgina Beattie, CEO, Mining Exploration and Geoscience, Department of Regional NSW
- Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter, Secretary, NSW Treasury
- Ms Sonya Campbell, Deputy Secretary, Commercial, NSW Treasury
- Ms Joann Wilkie, Deputy Secretary, Economic Strategy and Productivity, NSW Treasury
- Mr Peter Day, Executive Director, NSW Resources Regulator, Department of Regional NSW
- Ms Liz Livingstone, Deputy Secretary, Policy and Budget, NSW Treasury

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Finance, Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, Natural Resources open for examination.

The Minister withdrew at 12.46 pm.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 4.13 pm. The public and the media withdrew.

7. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 4.13 pm until Friday 8 March 2024 9:00am, Macquarie Room, Parliament House (public hearing – Artificial Intelligence in New South Wales).

Daniel Whiteman
Committee Clerk

Draft minutes no. 23

Friday 5 April 2024

Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance

Via videoconference 10.05 am

1. Members presentMr Buckingham *Chair*

Dr Kaine

Mr Lawrence

Mrs Maclaren-Jones (substituting for Mr Tudehope)

Ms Munro (substituting for Mr Rath)

Mr Nanva

Mr Ruddick (participating)

2. ApologiesMr Borsak *Deputy Chair*

Ms Faehrmann

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 19 March 2024 – Letter from the Hon Mark Latham MLC to the Chair, requesting the committee follow up Ms Abigail Boyd MLC regarding discussion during the Budget Estimates Legislature hearing on 4 March 2024
- 25 March 2024 – Letter from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC to the Chair, responding to the Chair's letter regarding the Budget Estimates Legislature hearing on 4 March 2024.

Sent

- 22 March 2024 – Letter from the Chair to Ms Abigail Boyd MLC, requesting Ms Boyd to produce documentation as raised in the Budget Estimates Legislature hearing on Monday 4 March 2024.

4. *****5. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2023-2024**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Nanva: That a brief paragraph discussing the exchange of correspondence between Mr Latham and Ms Boyd regarding The Legislature hearing on 4 March 2024 be circulated to the committee via email for consideration prior to inclusion in the Chair's draft report.

6. AdjournmentThe committee adjourned at 10.22 am, *sine die*.

Kara McKee

Committee Clerk**Draft minutes no. 24**

Tuesday 11 June 2024

Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance

Room 1136, Parliament House, Sydney, 10.02 am

1. Members presentMr Buckingham, *Chair*Mr Borsak, *Deputy Chair* (via videoconference)

Dr Kaine (via teleconference)

Mr Lawrence (via videoconference from 10.03 am)
Mr Nanva (via videoconference)
Mr Rath
Mr Tudehope

2. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Tudehope: That draft minutes no. 20 be confirmed.

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 26 February 2024 – Email from Ms Rhia Jones, NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption to the Budget Estimates secretariat, requesting a transcript correction to the Budget Estimates Premier independent agencies afternoon panel hearing transcript on 21 February 2024
- 26 February 2024 – Email with letter attached from Ms Christina Anderson, Law Enforcement Conduct Commission to Budget Estimates secretariat, clarifying evidence provided by Chief Commissioner Peter Johnson SC at the Portfolio Committee No. 1 Premier, independent agencies afternoon panel on 21 February 2024
- 5 March 2024 – Email from Ms Sarah King, Law Enforcement Conduct Commission to the Budget Estimates secretariat, confirming receipt of email issuing uncorrected transcript and questions on notice from the hearing on 21 February 2024
- 6 March 2024 – Email from Ms Sarah King, Law Enforcement Integrity Commission to the Budget Estimates secretariat, advising the Chief Commissioner has no further transcript corrections or clarifications than a transcript clarification already requested in relation to the Budget Estimates Premier independent agencies afternoon panel hearing on 21 February 2024
- 13 March 2024 – Email from Ms Vanessa Gill, Office of the Auditor-General, advising that the Office of the Auditor-General has no transcript clarifications or corrections following the Budget Estimates Premier independent agencies afternoon panel on 21 February 2024
- 19 March 2024 – Letter from Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter, Secretary, NSW Treasury, to the Budget Estimates secretariat, seeking clarifications to his evidence given at the Portfolio Committee No. 1 Treasurer hearing on Friday 1 March 2024
- 3 April 2024 – Letter from the Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC, Treasurer, to the Budget Estimates secretariat, seeking clarifications to his evidence given at the Portfolio Committee No. 1 Treasurer hearing on Friday 1 March 2024
- 11 April 2024 – Email from Mr William Coates, Office of the President, providing an updated answer to a question on notice from the Budget Estimates Legislature hearing on 1 March 2024
- 14 May 2024 – Letter from the Hon Mark Latham MLC to the Chair, regarding evidence given by the Hon David Harris MP, Minister for Gaming and Racing, during the Portfolio Committee No. 1 Budget Estimates Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, the Central Coast, Medical Research hearing on Thursday 22 February 2024.

Sent

- 5 March 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms Taylor Rundell, Office of the Hon Courtney Houssos MP, advising the committee accepted NSW Treasury's proposed amendment to the witness list, attaching a confirmed witness list and hearing information for the Budget Estimates Finance, Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, Natural Resources hearing on 7 March 2024
- 5 March 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Chief Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption, issuing uncorrected transcript and questions on notice from the hearing on 21 February 2024

- 5 March 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Chief Commissioner, Law Enforcement Conduct Commission, issuing uncorrected transcript and questions on notice from the hearing on 21 February 2024
- 5 March 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Commissioner, NSW Electoral Commission, issuing uncorrected transcript and questions on notice from the hearing on 21 February 2024
- 5 March 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Commissioner, New South Wales Public Service Commission, issuing uncorrected transcript and questions on notice from the hearing on 21 February 2024
- 5 March 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Auditor-General, Audit Office of New South Wales, issuing uncorrected transcript and questions on notice from the hearing on 21 February 2024
- 5 March 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms Sarah King, Law Enforcement Conduct Commission, confirming email issuing uncorrected transcript and questions on notice from the hearing on 21 February 2024 has been received
- 6 March 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon Sophie Cotsis MP, issuing uncorrected transcript, questions on notice and supplementary questions from the hearing on 29 February 2024
- 7 March 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC, issuing uncorrected transcript, questions on notice and supplementary questions from the hearing on 1 March 2024
- 8 March 2024 - Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon Ben Franklin MLC, issuing uncorrected transcript, questions on notice, and supplementary questions from the hearing on 4 March 2024
- 13 March 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon Courtney Houssos MLC, issuing uncorrected transcript, questions on notice, and supplementary questions from the hearing on 7 March 2024.

The committee noted that:

- the correspondence received 3 April 2024 from the Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC, Treasurer and 19 March 2024 from Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter, Secretary, NSW Treasury, providing clarifications to their evidence at the Portfolio Committee No. 1 Treasurer hearing on Friday 1 March 2024 has been published
- footnotes at the relevant points in the transcript on Friday 1 March 2024 have been inserted noting that correspondence clarifying the evidence had been received and providing a hyperlink to the published correspondence.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2023-2024

4.1 Answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions – additional hearings

The committee noted 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 from Ms Kathrina Lo, Public Service Commissioner, Public Service Commission, received 7 March 2024
- answers to questions on notice from the Hon John Hatzistergos AM, Chief Commissioner, NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption, received 12 March 2024
- answers to questions on notice from Mr John Schmidt, Commissioner, NSW Electoral Commission, received 19 March 2024
- answers to questions on notice from the Hon Chris Minns MP, Premier, received 19 March 2024
- answers to questions on notice from the Hon David Harris MP, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, and Minister for the Central Coast, received 20 March 2024

- answers to questions on notice from the Hon Sophie Cotsis MP, Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Work Health and Safety, received 27 March 2024
- answers to questions on notice from the Hon Ben Franklin MLC, President of the Legislative Council of NSW, received 28 March and 11 April 2024
- answers to questions on notice from the Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC, Treasurer, received 3 April 2024
- answers to questions on notice from the Hon Courtney Houssos MLC, Minister for Finance, Minister for Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, and Minister for Natural Resources, received 3 April 2024.

4.2 Consideration of Chair's draft report

The Chair submitted his draft report entitled *Budget Estimates 2023-2024*, which, having been previously circulated, was taken as being read.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Rath: 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, correspondence and answers to questions taken on notice and supplementary questions relating to the inquiry be tabled in the House with the report;

Upon tabling, all unpublished transcripts of evidence, tabled documents, correspondence and answers to questions taken on notice and supplementary questions related 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;

The secretariat is tabling the report at 2.00 pm on Thursday 13 June 2024;

The Chair to advise the secretariat and members if they intend to hold a press conference, and if so, the date and time.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 10.04 am until 10.00 am on Friday 5 July 2024, Room 1043 Parliament House, Sydney (report deliberative – Artificial Intelligence (AI) in New South Wales).

Kara McKee
Committee Clerk

