



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 2

Budget Estimates 2023-2024

Report 65

June 2024

2



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Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health

Budget Estimates 2023-2024

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Budget Estimates 2023-2024

"June 2024"

Chair: Dr Amanda Cohn 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
 - (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.⁵

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

Committee details

Committee members

| | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Dr Amanda Cohn MLC | The Greens | <i>Chair</i> |
| Hon Susan Carter MLC | Liberal Party | <i>Deputy Chair</i> |
| Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC | Australian Labor Party | |
| Hon Greg Donnelly MLC | Australian Labor Party | |
| Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC | The Greens | |
| Hon Emily Suvaal MLC | Australian Labor Party | |
| Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC | The Nationals | |

Non-substantive members who attended the hearings

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Ms Abigail Boyd MLC | The Greens | |
| Hon Scott Farlow MLC | Liberal Party | |
| Ms Sue Higginson MLC | The Greens | |
| Hon Stephen Lawrence MLC | Australian Labor Party | |
| Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC | Liberal Party | |
| Hon Tania Mihailuk MLC | Pauline Hanson's One Nation | |
| Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC | The Nationals | |
| Hon Cameron Murphy MLC | Australian Labor Party | |
| Hon Bob Nanva MLC | Australian Labor Party | |

Contact details

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Website | www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/ |
| Email | portfoliocommittee2@parliament.nsw.gov.au |
| Telephone | (02) 9230 2809 |

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. 2 – Health is responsible for the scrutiny of the following portfolio areas:

- Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast
- Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast.

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, as well as committee members and the secretariat staff for their contributions to the inquiry process.

Dr Amanda Cohn MLC
Committee Chair

Chapter 1 Introduction

The inquiry into Budget Estimates is one of the key mechanisms for Parliament 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 four public hearings as follows:

- Thursday 26 October 2023 and Thursday 22 February 2024: Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast
- Wednesday 1 November 2023 and Wednesday 28 February 2024: Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast.

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.

Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast

2.1 A hearing examining the portfolios of Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast was held on Thursday 26 October 2023. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of these portfolios:

- palliative care funding
- safe nurse staffing levels
- regional and rural paramedics
- hospital redevelopments including Bankstown Hospital, Albury Hospital and Tweed Valley Hospital
- pill testing services
- treatment and prevention of silicosis
- COVID-19 transmission in hospitals.

2.2 An additional hearing examining the portfolios of Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast was held on Thursday 22 February 2024. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of these portfolios:

- palliative care funding
- remuneration for nurses and midwives
- redevelopment of Manning Base Hospital
- safe access to abortion services
- safe staffing levels
- transmission of COVID-19 in New South Wales healthcare facilities
- pill testing in New South Wales
- use of consultants.

Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast

2.3 A hearing examining the portfolios of Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast was held on Wednesday 1 November 2023. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of these portfolios:

- ministerial travel disclosures and office staffing

- social, community and affordable housing, including supply, construction, waitlists, and specific projects such as Waterloo South and Argyle Housing
- water management and security, including impact of mining on rivers and catchment areas, drought preparedness, water sharing plans, cultural water rights, and water harvesting
- homelessness, including street counts for rough sleepers, support and accommodation services, and homelessness across vulnerable communities
- access to mental health services, including suicide prevention training, outpatient mental health services, and data collection across a range of mental health diagnoses
- children and young people, including the Youth Advisory Council, vaping, mental health and suicide prevention, and the NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People.

2.4 An additional hearing examining the portfolios of Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast was held on Wednesday 28 February 2024. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of these portfolios:

- water management and security, including buybacks, water sharing plans, water quality, floodplain harvesting and regional water infrastructure projects
- social, community and affordable housing, including supply, construction, waitlists and Aboriginal housing
- mental health workforce and facilities, including the availability of trauma-informed care, peer workers, and workplace culture at Cumberland Hospital
- flood recovery and mitigation, and temporary accommodation in the North Coast
- issues facing young people, including access to mental health services, vaping, forums for regional youth and the creation of a central youth agency
- recommissioning specialised homelessness services.

Appendix 1 Witnesses at hearings

| Date | Name | Position and Organisation |
|--|-----------------------|---|
| Thursday 26 October 2023 Macquarie Room Parliament House, Sydney | Hon Ryan Park MP | Minister for Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast |
| | Ms Susan Pearce AM | Secretary, NSW Health |
| | Ms Deb Willcox AM | Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Patient Experience, NSW Health |
| | Mr Matthew Daly | Deputy Secretary, System Sustainability and Performance, NSW Health |
| | Mr Steven Carr | A/Chief Financial Officer and Deputy Secretary, Financial Services and Asset Management, NSW Health |
| | Dr Kerry Chant AO PSM | Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary, Population and Public Health, NSW Health |
| | Mr Luke Sloane | Deputy Secretary, Regional Health, NSW Health |
| | Mr Phil Minns | Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health |
| | Ms Rebecca Fox | Secretary, Department of Regional NSW |
| | Ms Rebecca Wark | Chief Executive, Health Infrastructure, NSW Health |
| | Dr Dominic Morgan ASM | Commissioner and Chief Executive, NSW Ambulance |
| Wednesday 1 November 2023 Macquarie Room Parliament House, Sydney | Hon Rose Jackson MLC | Minister for Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast |

| Date | Name | Position and Organisation |
|-------------|---------------------|---|
| | Ms Amanda Jones | Deputy Secretary, DPE Water |
| | Mr Andrew George | CEO, WaterNSW |
| | Mr Roch Cheroux | Managing Director, Sydney Water |
| | Mr Jonathan Wheaton | A/Deputy Secretary, Regional NSW |
| | Dr Brendan Flynn | Executive Director Mental Health Branch, NSW Ministry of Health |
| | Ms Deb Willcox AM | Deputy Secretary Health System Strategy and Patient Experience, NSW Ministry of Health |
| | Dr Murray Wright | Chief Psychiatrist, NSW Ministry of Health |
| | Mr Michael Wheatley | A/CEO, Land and Housing Corporation |
| | Mr Michael Tidball | Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice |
| | Ms Anne Campbell | Deputy Secretary Strategy, Policy and Commissioning, Department of Communities and Justice |
| | Mr James Toomey | Deputy Secretary Housing, Disability, District Services and Disaster Welfare, Department of Communities and Justice |
| | Ms Famey Williams | CEO, Aboriginal Housing Office |
| | Mr Grant Barnes | Chief Regulatory Officer, Natural Resources Access Regulator |
| | Mr Brendan Thomas | Deputy Secretary, Transforming Aboriginal Outcomes, Department of Communities and Justice |

| Date | Name | Position and Organisation |
|--|-----------------------|---|
| | Mr Bryce Wilde | Executive Director, Natural Resources Commission |
| | Mr Darren Cleary | Managing Director, Hunter Water |
| | Ms Zoe Robinson | Advocate for Children and Young People |
| Thursday 22 February 2024 Macquarie Room Parliament House, Sydney | Hon Ryan Park MP | Minister for Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast |
| | Ms Susan Pearce AM | Secretary, NSW Health |
| | Ms Deb Willcox AM | Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Patient Experience, NSW Health |
| | Mr Matthew Daly | Deputy Secretary, System Sustainability and Performance, NSW Health |
| | Dr Kerry Chant AO PSM | Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary, Population and Public Health, NSW Health |
| | Mr Alfa D'Amato | Chief Financial Officer and Deputy Secretary, Financial Services and Asset Management, NSW Health |
| | Mr Luke Sloane | Deputy Secretary, Regional Health, NSW Health |
| | Mr Phil Minns | Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health |
| | Mr Jonathan Wheaton | A/Deputy Secretary, Regional NSW |
| | Ms Rebecca Wark | Chief Executive, Health Infrastructure, NSW Health |
| | Mr Vincent McTaggart | Executive Director, Strategic Reform and Planning Branch, NSW Health |

| Date | Name | Position and Organisation |
|---|------------------------------|---|
| | Dr Dominic Morgan ASM | Commissioner and Chief Executive, NSW Ambulance |
| Wednesday 28 February 2024 Macquarie Room Parliament House, Sydney | Hon Rose Jackson MLC | Minister for Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast |
| | Ms Amanda Jones | Deputy Secretary, Deputy Secretary, NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water - Water |
| | Mr Andrew George | CEO, WaterNSW |
| | Mr Roch Cheroux | Managing Director, Sydney Water |
| | Mr Jonathan Wheaton | A/Deputy Secretary, Regional NSW |
| | Dr Brendan Flynn | Executive Director Mental Health Branch, NSW Ministry of Health |
| | Ms Deb Willcox AM | Deputy Secretary Health System Strategy and Patient Experience, NSW Ministry of Health |
| | Dr Murray Wright | Chief Psychiatrist, NSW Ministry of Health |
| | Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte | Chief Scientist & Engineer |
| | Mr Michael Tidball | Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice |
| | Ms Anne Campbell | Deputy Secretary Strategy, Policy and Commissioning, Department of Communities and Justice |
| | Ms Rebecca Pinkstone | Chief Executive, Homes NSW |
| | Ms Famey Williams | CEO, Aboriginal Housing Office |
| | Mr Grant Barnes | Chief Regulatory Officer, Natural Resources Access Regulator |

| Date | Name | Position and Organisation |
|-------------|------------------|--|
| | Mr Darren Cleary | Managing Director, Hunter Water |
| | Ms Zoe Robinson | Advocate for Children and Young People |

Appendix 2 Minutes

Minutes no. 4

Monday 18 September 2023

Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney, 9.05 am

1. Members present

Dr Cohn, Chair

Mrs Carter, Deputy Chair

Mr Buttigieg (via videoconference)

Mr Donnelly (from 9 am to 1.57 pm and from 3.15 pm to 4.15 pm)

Ms Faehrmann

Mr Fang (substituting for Mrs Taylor until 1.00 pm)

Ms Suvaal

Mrs Taylor (from 1.45 pm)

2. Acknowledgement of Country

3. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Suvaal: That draft minutes no. 3 be confirmed.

4. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 25 July 2023 – Email from Shannon Couper, Policy and Advocacy Adviser, Beyond Blue, advising Beyond Blue is unable to make a submission to the Mental Health inquiry, however they can share the invitation with their lived experience community on request
- 26 July 2023 – Email from an individual concerning terms of reference for mining impacts inquiry
- 27 July 2023 – Email from Ruth Das, Engagement and Partnerships Lead, Embrace Project - National Multicultural Mental Health Project, advising Embrace will not be making a submission to the Mental Health inquiry
- 5 August 2023 – Letter from Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, responding to Chair's letter dated 27 July 2023 which forwarded correspondence from an individual to committee raising concerns about Sydney Water, for consideration
- 17 August 2023 – Form letter from Clarence Catchment Alliance concerning mining in the Clarence Catchment, Northern Rivers, NSW
- 20 August 2023 – Email from Mr John Gerathy regarding Cadia Mine enclosing various correspondence to the EPA
- 20 August 2023 – Correspondence from Dr Peter Serov – Independent Desktop Review - Bowdens Silver Pty Ltd Environmental Impact Study Review for Lue Actions Group and Summary document
- 12 September 2023 – Email from Dr Elias Nasser, rural Generalist Trainee, Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine to committee, enclosing correspondence to Health Minister regarding the transition to the Single Digital Patient Record and response from the Health Minister
- 14 September 2023 – Email from Mr Anthony McClure, Director, Bowdens Silver Pty Ltd, declining invitation to attend mining impacts inquiry hearing on 18 September 2023
- 14 September 2023 – Email from Regis Resources Limited, declining invitation to attend mining impacts inquiry hearing on 18 September 2023.

Sent

- 27 July 2023 – Letter to Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, forwarding correspondence from an individual to committee raising concerns about Sydney Water, for consideration
- 17 August 2023 – Letter to an individual conveying the substance of response to Chair from Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, dated 5 August 2023 about the individual's concerns about Sydney Water.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Faehrmann: That the committee keep the following correspondence confidential as it contains identifying and/or sensitive information and is not related to an inquiry:

- 5 August 2023 – Letter from Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, responding to Chair's letter dated 27 July 2023 which forwarded correspondence from an individual to committee raising concerns about Sydney Water, for consideration
- 17 August 2023 – Letter to an individual conveying the substance of response to Chair from Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, dated 5 August 2023 about the individual's concerns about Sydney Water.

That the committee keep the following correspondence confidential as it is from an individual who has made a submission to the committee's mining impacts inquiry and the individual has asked that this submission be kept confidential:

- 26 July 2023 – Email from an individual concerning terms of reference for mining impacts inquiry.

5. Inquiry into current and potential future impacts of gold, silver, lead and zinc mining on human health, land, air and water quality in New South Wales

5.1 Public submissions

The Committee noted the following submissions were published by the committee clerk under the authorisation of the resolution appointing the committee: submissions nos: 1, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 50, 52, 53, 57, 58, 59, 62, 63, 64, 64A, 65, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85 and 106.

5.2 Partially confidential submissions

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Suvaal: That the committee keep the following information confidential, as per the request of the author: names in submissions no. 2, 4, 8, 9, 11, 19, 22, 49, 51, 56, and 66.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Suvaal: That the committee authorise the publication of submissions no. 3, 29, 35, 48, 54, 55, 60, 61, 72 and 92 with the exception of sensitive or identifying material or potential adverse comments that have been highlighted by the secretariat.

5.3 Confidential submissions

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Suvaal: That the committee keep submissions no. 23, 30 and 37 confidential, as per the request of the authors.

5.4 Attachments to submissions

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Carter: That the committee authorise the publication of attachments to submissions no 6, 18 and 77 as they contain material particularly pertinent to the inquiry.

5.5 Proforma submissions

The committee noted a series of hard copy pro forma submissions have been lodged and that the secretariat has not yet reviewed them as substantive submissions are being prioritised.

5.6 Transport – site visits and hearings in Orange and Mudgee

The committee noted that it had previously agreed via email to the use of a charter plane to facilitate site visits and hearings in Orange and Mudgee on 3 and 4 October 2023 at a cost of \$19,140.00.

The booking was subsequently cancelled by the charter flight provider for maintenance reasons.

The committee noted that the secretariat sought alternative quotes with the most suitable option costing approximately \$30,000.

Discussion ensued.

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Carter: That consideration of the agenda item be deferred until later in the day, to allow the secretariat to obtain information about commercial flight and bus options.

5.7 Site visit and hearing itinerary – Orange and Mudgee

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Suvaal: That consideration of the itinerary for the committee's site visits in Orange and Mudgee on Tuesday 3 October 2023 and Wednesday 4 October 2023 also be deferred until later in the day.

5.8 Public hearing

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Carter: That the timing and sequence of questions to be asked at the hearing on 18 September 2023 be left to the Chair to allocate between opposition, crossbench, and government members.

6. 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. 2 hearings:

| Date | Portfolio |
|--|---|
| Thursday 26 October 2023 | Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast |
| Wednesday 1 November 2023 | Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast |

6.1 Allocation of question time and total hearing time

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.

6.2 Witness requests

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Fang: 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.

Mr Fang moved: That the committee invite Dr Michael Holland MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Health, to the hearing for the portfolios of Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast on Thursday 26 October 2023, from 9.15 am to 1.00 pm only.

Question put.

The committee divided.

Ayes: Mrs Carter, Dr Cohn, Ms Faehrmann, Mr Fang

Noes: Mr Buttigieg, Mr Donnelly, Ms Suvaal

Question resolved in the affirmative.

6.3 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.

7. Inquiry into current and potential future impacts of gold, silver, lead and zinc mining on human health, land, air and water quality in New South Wales

7.1 Public hearing

Witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Ms Beverley Smiles, President – Inland Rivers Network
- Mr Ross McDonnell, NPA Executive, National Parks Association
- Mr Warwick Pearse, NPA Landscape Conservation Forum, National Parks Association

Mr Pearse tendered a document entitled 'Examples of contaminated mine waste water discharge into waterways which flow into NSW national parks'.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Ms Sherry Duhe, Interim CEO, Newcrest Mining Limited
- Mr Michael Dewar, General Manager, Cadia Valley Operations, Newcrest Mining

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Ms Gem Green, Chair, Cadia Community Sustainability Network
- Ms Frances Retallack, Vice Chair, Cadia Community Sustainability Network
- Dr Ian Wright, Associate Professor, Environmental Science, Western Sydney University

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Ms Susannah White, Angus seedstock producer, Mudgee Region Action Group
- Ms Shireen Baguley, Environmental Consultant, Mudgee Region Action Group
- Mr Dan Sutton, President, Belubula Headwaters Protection Group
- Ms Rebecca Price, Vice President, Belubula Headwaters Protection Group

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Mr Tony Chappel, CEO, NSW Environment Protection Authority
- Mr Stephen Beaman, Executive Director Regulatory Practice & Services, NSW Environment Protection Authority

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Mr Stephen Galilee, CEO, NSW Minerals Council

- Ms Claire Doherty, Director, Policy, NSW Minerals Council

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Ms Georgina Beattie, CEO, Mining Exploration and Geoscience, NSW Resources Regulator
- Mr Peter Day, Executive Director, NSW Resources Regulator

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

Tendered documents

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

- Document entitled 'Examples of contaminated mine wastewater discharge into waterways which flow into NSW national parks' tendered 18 September 2023 by Mr Warwick Pearse, NPA Landscape Conservation Forum, National Parks Association.

7.2 Transport – site visits and hearings in Orange and Mudgee

The committee considered the following information provided by the secretariat about transport options for the committee's site visits and hearings in Orange and Mudgee:

- commercial flights from Sydney to Orange on Tuesday 3 October 2023 for the required number of members and staff (13) would cost approximately \$5,000, and
- bus hire for Tuesday 3 and Wednesday 4 October 2023 to transport members and staff to hearings and site visits and back to Sydney would cost approximately \$5,000.

Discussion ensued.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Faehrmann: That for the purposes of its Orange and Mudgee hearings and site visits the committee:

- take a commercial flight from Sydney to Orange on Tuesday 3 October 2023, and
- hire a bus to travel to hearings and site visits on Tuesday 3 October and Wednesday 4 October 2023 and to return to Sydney on Wednesday 4 October 2023.

7.3 Site visit and hearing itinerary – Orange and Mudgee

The committee considered the itinerary for the site visits and hearings in Orange and Mudgee on Tuesday 3 October and Wednesday 4 October 2023.

Discussion ensued.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Faehrmann: That the committee adopt the following itinerary for the site visits and hearings in Orange and Mudgee, noting that times may need to change to accommodate witness availability and logistical details:

Tuesday 3 October 2023:

- 6.50 am to 7.45 am: commercial flight Sydney to Orange
- 7.45 am to 8.15 am: bus travel to hearing venue, Orange
- 8.15 am to 9.30 am: hearing set up and deliberative meeting
- 9.30 am to 12.00 pm: hearing, Orange
- 12 noon to 12.30 pm: lunch
- 12.30 pm to 1.30 pm: hearing, Orange
- 1.30 pm to 2.00 pm: bus travel to Cadia Mine
- 2.00 pm to 5.30 pm: site visit, Cadia Mine
- 5.30 pm to 6.00 pm: bus travel to Orange, stay in Orange overnight.

Wednesday 4 October 2023:

- 6.00 am to 8.30 am: bus travel to Mudgee
- 8.30 am to 9.30 am: breakfast and hearing set up
- 9.30 am to 12.00 pm: hearing, Mudgee
- 12.00 pm to 12.30 pm: lunch
- 12.30 pm to 2.00 pm: hearing, Mudgee
- 2.00 pm to 2.30 pm: bus travel to Bowdens Silver Project, Lue
- 2.30 pm to 4.00 pm: Bowdens presentation and site tour
- 4.00 pm to 5.30 pm: Time with Mudgee Region Action Group and landholders
- 5.30 pm to 9.30 pm (incorporating half hour dinner break): Bus travel Mudgee to Sydney.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Donnelly, That:

- Regis Resources Limited be invited to give evidence at the Orange hearing on Tuesday 3 October 2023 or at another hearing for the inquiry.
- Bowdens Silver Pty Ltd be invited to give evidence at the Mudgee hearing on Wednesday 4 October 2023 or at another hearing for the inquiry.
- Further discussions regarding witness selection for the Orange and Mudgee hearings take place via email.

8. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 4.15 pm until Friday 22 September 2023 (public hearing – inquiry into the Equity, accessibility and appropriate delivery of outpatient and community mental health in New South Wales).

Elspeth Dyer
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 11

Thursday 26 October 2023

Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.02 am

1. Members present

Dr Cohn, *Chair*

Mrs Carter, *Deputy Chair*

Ms Boyd (participating from 11.23 am until 11.56 am, and from 2.49 pm until 3.30 pm)

Mr Donnelly

Ms Faehrmann (via Webex from 9.00 am to 9.20 am, from 9.55 am to 10.54 am, from 11.15 am to 11.44 pm, from 3.45 pm to 4.35 pm, and from 5.07 pm to 5.21 pm)

Ms Mihailuk (participating from 11.15 am to 12.09 pm)

Mr Nanva (substituting for Mr Buttigieg)

Ms Suvaal

Mrs Taylor

2. Acknowledgement of Country

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received:

- 4 October 2023 – Email from Ms Amanda Whitney, Office of the Hon Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast to Budget Estimates secretariat, providing witness list for hearing on 26 October 2023
- 4 October 2023 – Email from Ms India Jones, Office of the Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast to Budget Estimates secretariat, providing witness list for hearing on 1 November 2023
- 4 October 2023 – Email from Ms India Jones, Office of the Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast to Budget Estimates secretariat, providing updated witness list for hearing on 1 November 2023
- 10 October 2023 – Email from Ms India Jones, Office of the Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast to Budget Estimates secretariat, confirming additional witnesses will appear at hearing on 1 November 2023
- 11 October 2023 – Email from Ms Amanda Whitney, Office of the Hon Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast to Budget Estimates secretariat, nominating additional witnesses to appear at hearing on 26 October 2023
- 15 October 2023 – Email from Ms India Jones, Office of the Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast to Budget Estimates secretariat, requesting additional witness appear at hearing on 1 November 2023
- 26 October 2023 – Email from Dr Michael Holland MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Health, and Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Health to Budget Estimates secretariat, advising he will not be appearing at hearing on 26 October 2023.

Sent:

- 18 September 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast, issuing request to nominate witnesses for hearing on 26 October 2023
- 18 September 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Dr Michael Holland MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Health, and Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Health, issuing invitation to attend hearing on 26 October 2023
- 18 September 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast, issuing request to nominate witnesses for hearing on 1 November 2023
- 9 October 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast, requesting additional witnesses appear at hearing on 26 October 2023
- 9 October 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast, requesting additional witnesses appear at hearing on 1 November 2023
- 10 October 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms India Jones, Office of the Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast, confirming witnesses for hearing on 1 November 2023
- 13 October 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms Amanda Whitney, Office of the Hon Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast, confirming witnesses for hearing on 26 October 2023

- 18 October 2023 - Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms India Jones, Office of the Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast, accepting additional witness and requesting further witness appear at hearing on 1 November 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 – Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast

Witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The Hon Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast 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:

- Ms Susan Pearce AM, Secretary, NSW Health
- Ms Deb Willcox AM, Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Patient Experience, NSW Health
- Mr Matthew Daly, Deputy Secretary, System Sustainability and Performance, NSW Health
- Mr Steven Carr, A/Chief Financial Officer and Deputy Secretary, Financial Services and Asset Management, NSW Health
- Dr Kerry Chant AO PSM, Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary, Population and Public Health, NSW Health
- Mr Luke Sloane, Deputy Secretary, Regional Health, NSW Health
- Mr Phil Minns, Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health
- Ms Rebecca Fox, Secretary, Department of Regional NSW
- Ms Rebecca Wark, Chief Executive, Health Infrastructure, NSW Health
- Dr Dominic Morgan ASM, Commissioner and Chief Executive, NSW Ambulance.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast open for examination.

The Minister and Ms Fox withdrew at 12.46.

Mrs Taylor tabled the following documents:

- Email attaching Dr Michael Holland's comments dated 3 October 2021
 - Wellbeing and Health In-reach Nurse (WHIN) Coordinator Model Pilot Evaluation: Final Report.
- The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 5.15 pm. The public and the media withdrew.

4.1 Tended documents

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Carter: That the committee accept and publish the following document tabled during the Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast hearing held on 26 October 2023:

- Wellbeing and Health In-reach Nurse (WHIN) Coordinator Model Pilot Evaluation: Final Report, tabled by Mrs Taylor.

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Carter: That the committee accept and keep confidential the following document tabled during the Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast hearing held on 26 October 2023:

- Email attaching Dr Michael Holland's comments dated 3 October 2021, tabled by Mrs Taylor.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5:21 pm until Friday 27 October 2023, 8.30 am, Macquarie Room, Parliament House (public hearing – inquiry into current and potential impacts of gold, silver, lead and zinc mining on human health, land, air and water quality in New South Wales).

Shaza Barbar

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 14

Wednesday 1 November 2023

Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.00 am

1. Members present

Dr Cohn, *Chair*

Mrs Mitchell, *Acting Deputy Chair* (substituting for Mrs Carter)

Mrs Carter (participating from 3.05 pm until 4.25 pm)

Mr Donnelly

Ms Faehrmann (from 10.22 am until 10.37 am, and from 12.11 pm until 12.41 pm)

Mr Farlow (participating)

Ms Higginson (participating from 9.36 am until 10.45am, and from 11.37 am until 11.58 am, and from 2.45 pm until 3.30 pm)

Mr Lawrence (substituting for Mr Buttigieg)

Mrs Maclaren-Jones (substituting for Mrs Taylor)

Ms Suvaal

2. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Suvaal: That draft minutes no. 11 be confirmed.

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 23 October 2023 – Email from Ms India Jones, Office of the Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast to Budget Estimates secretariat, confirming additional requested witness can attend hearing on 1 November 2023
- 30 October 2023 – Email from Ms Lauren Walker, Senior Executive Officer, Office of the Deputy Secretary – Transforming Aboriginal Outcomes, Department of Communities and Justice to Budget Estimates secretariat, requesting that Mr Brendan Thomas, Deputy Secretary, Transforming Aboriginal Outcomes be withdrawn as a witness for hearing on 1 November

- 31 October 2023 – Email from Ms Lauren Walker, Senior Executive Officer, Office of the Deputy Secretary – Transforming Aboriginal Outcomes, Department of Communities and Justice to Budget Estimates secretariat, further advising that Mr Brendan Thomas, Deputy Secretary, Transforming Aboriginal Outcomes was not advised of his appearance at the hearing on 1 November until 30 October
- 31 October 2023 – Email from Ms Rachael Lemon, Director, Parliamentary and Government Services (Planning and Homes), Department of Planning and Environment to Budget Estimates secretariat, advising that Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte, Chief Scientist and Engineer, Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade is unavailable to attend hearing on 1 November.

Sent

- 23 October 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast, confirming witness list for 1 November 2023
- 31 October 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms Lauren Walker, Senior Executive Officer, Office of the Deputy Secretary – Transforming Aboriginal Outcomes, Department of Communities and Justice, confirming that Mr Brendan Thomas, Deputy Secretary, Transforming Aboriginal Outcomes, is required to attend the hearing on 1 November
- 31 October 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms Rachael Lemon, Director, Parliamentary and Government Services (Planning and Homes), Department of Planning and Environment to Budget Estimates secretariat, noting that Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte, Chief Scientist and Engineer, Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade is unavailable to attend hearing on 1 November and confirming request for Mr Bryce Wilde, Executive Director, Natural Resources Commission, Premier’s Department to appear.

4. Election of Deputy Chair

The Chair called for nominations for Deputy Chair, noting the substantive position holder, Mrs Carter is a participating member for the Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast Budget Estimates hearing on Wednesday 1 November.

Mrs Maclaren-Jones moved: That Mrs Mitchell be elected Deputy Chair of the committee for the Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast Budget Estimates hearing on Wednesday 1 November.

There being no further nominations, the Chair declared Mrs Mitchell elected Deputy Chair.

5. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2023-2024

5.1 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.

5.2 Public hearing – Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast

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 Amanda Jones, Deputy Secretary, DPE Water
- Mr Andrew George, CEO, WaterNSW
- Mr Roch Cheroux, Managing Director, Sydney Water
- Mr Jonathan Wheaton, A/ Deputy Secretary, Regional NSW
- Dr Brendan Flynn, Executive Director Mental Health Branch, NSW Ministry of Health
- Dr Murray Wright, Chief Psychiatrist, NSW Ministry of Health

- Mr Michael Wheatley, A/CEO, Land and Housing Corporation
- Mr Michael Tidball, Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice
- Ms Anne Campbell, Deputy Secretary Strategy, Policy and Commissioning, Department of Communities and Justice
- Mr James Toomey, Deputy Secretary Housing, Disability, District Services and Disaster Welfare, Department of Communities and Justice
- Ms Famey Williams, CEO, Aboriginal Housing Office
- Mr Grant Barnes, CRO, Natural Resources Access Regulator
- Mr Brendan Thomas, Deputy Secretary, Transforming Aboriginal Outcomes, Department of Communities and Justice
- Mr Bryce Wilde, Executive Director, Natural Resources Commission
- Mr Darren Cleary, Managing Director, Hunter Water
- Ms Zoe Robinson, Advocate for Children and Young People.

The following witness was examined on their former oath:

- Ms Deb Wilcox AM, Deputy Secretary Health System Strategy and Patient Experience, NSW Ministry of Health.

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 Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast was admitted.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast open for examination.

The Minister withdrew at 12.46 pm.

Mr Brendan Thomas, Deputy Secretary, Transforming Aboriginal Outcomes, Department of Communities and Justice, withdrew at 2.23 pm.

Ms Faehrmann tabled the following documents:

- DPE.SO52.1931.0393, Email: Re: Follow-up from Friday- FPH, 13 July 2022, non-privileged document returned to Order for papers – Floodplain harvesting – Further order (10 August 2022)
- DPE.SO52.1931.0149, Email: Fwd: for next discussion – revised FPH targets & review clause, 14 July 2022, non-privileged document returned to Order for papers – Floodplain harvesting – Further order (10 August 2022).

Mr Jonathan Wheaton, A/ Deputy Secretary, Regional NSW, withdrew at 3.45 pm.

The following witnesses withdrew at 4.41 pm:

- Ms Amanda Jones, Deputy Secretary, DPE Water
- Mr Andrew George, CEO, WaterNSW
- Mr Roch Cheroux, Managing Director, Sydney Water
- Mr Grant Barnes, CRO , Natural Resources Access Regulator
- Mr Bryce Wilde, Executive Director, Natural Resources Commission
- Mr Darren Cleary, Managing Director, Hunter Water.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 5.16 pm. The public and the media withdrew.

5.3 Tendered documents

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Mitchell: That the committee accept and publish the following documents tabled during the Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast portfolio(s) hearing held on Wednesday 1 November 2023:

- DPE.SO52.1931.0393, Email: Re: Follow-up from Friday- FPH, 13 July 2022, non-privileged document returned to Order for papers – Floodplain harvesting – Further order (10 August 2022), tendered by Ms Faehrmann.
- DPE.SO52.1931.0149, Email: Fwd: for next discussion – revised FPH targets & review clause, 14 July 2022, non-privileged document returned to Order for papers – Floodplain harvesting – Further order (10 August 2022), tendered by Ms Faehrmann.

6. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5.20 pm, *sine die*.

Alex Stedman

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 17

Thursday 8 February 2024

Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health

Room 1254, Parliament House, Sydney, 1.34 pm

1. Members present

Dr Cohn, *Chair*

Mrs Carter, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Buttigieg (from 1.39 pm)

Mr Donnelly

Ms Faehrmann

Mr Fang (substituting for Mrs Taylor)

Ms Suvaal (via videoconference)

2. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Faehrmann: That draft minutes no. 16 be confirmed.

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 27 November 2023 – Letter from Mr Michael Tidball, Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice, to Chair, seeking clarifications to his evidence given at the Portfolio Committee No. 2 Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast hearing on 1 November 2023
- 10 January 2024 – Email from Mr John Paul Ramsay, Department of Communities and Justice Ministerial and Parliamentary Services, to secretariat, noting the Secretary of the Department of Communities and Justice has been invited to two Budget Estimates hearings, the Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast hearing (PC 2) and Customer Service and Digital Government, Emergency Services, Youth Justice (PC 8) hearing on 28 February 2024
- 12 January 2024 – Email from Ms India Jones, Office of the Hon Rose Jackson MLC, to secretariat, noting that the Secretary of the Department of Communities and Justice has been invited to two Budget Estimates hearings, the Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast hearing (PC 2) and Customer Service and Digital Government, Emergency Services, Youth Justice (PC 8) hearing on 28 February 2024, and seeking the committee's advice on how to proceed
- 16 January 2024 – Email from Mr James Connolly, Office of the Hon Jihad Dib MP, to secretariat, noting that the Secretary of the Department of Communities and Justice, to secretariat, has been invited

to two Budget Estimates hearings, the Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast hearing (PC 2) and Customer Service and Digital Government, Emergency Services, Youth Justice (PC 8) hearing on 28 February 2024 and including a proposal from Minister Jackson and Minister Dib to address the witness clash

- 18 January 2024 – Email from Ms India Jones, Office of the Hon Rose Jackson MLC, to secretariat, confirming proposal of Minister Dib and Minister Jackson in relation to the witness clash for the Budget Estimates Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast hearing (PC 2) and Customer Service and Digital Government, Emergency Services, Youth Justice (PC 8) hearing on 28 February 2024
- 31 January 2024 – Email from Ms India Jones, Office of the Hon Rose Jackson MLC, to secretariat, responding to the witness invitation for the Budget Estimates Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast additional hearing on 28 February 2024
- 31 January 2024 – Email from Ms India Jones, Office of the Hon Rose Jackson MLC, to secretariat, providing additional proposed witness changes for the Budget Estimates Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast additional hearing on 28 February 2024
- 31 January 2024 – Email from Mr John Paul Ramsay, Ministerial and Parliamentary Services, Department of Communities and Justice, to secretariat, advising that the Hon Jihad Dib MP and the Hon Rose Jackson MLC propose that the Secretary for the Department of Communities and Justice attend the last hour of the Customer Service
- 31 January 2024 – Email from Ms India Jones, Office of the Hon Rose Jackson MLC, to secretariat, including proposal that the Secretary of the Department of Communities and Justice attend the last hour of the Customer Service and Digital Government, Emergency Services, Youth Justice (PC8) hearing on 28 February 2024
- 1 February 2024 – Email from Ms Amanda Whitney, Office of the Hon Ryan Park MP, to secretariat, responding to the witness invitation for the Budget Estimates Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast additional hearing on 22 February 2024.

Sent

- 2 November 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Hon Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast, issuing uncorrected transcript, questions on notice, and supplementary questions from hearing on 26 October 2023
- 8 November 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast, issuing uncorrected transcript, questions on notice, and supplementary questions from hearing on 1 November 2023
- 22 December 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon Rose Jackson MP, Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast, inviting witnesses to the hearing on 28 February 2024
- 22 December 2023 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast, inviting witnesses to the hearing on 22 February 2024
- 22 January 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Office of the Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast, advising of the committee's decision to resolve the witness clash for the Secretary of the Department of Communities and Justice invited to both the Portfolio Committee No. 2 and Portfolio Committee No. 8 hearings on 28 February 2024 and inviting Ms Rebecca Pinkstone, Homes NSW CEO to the Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast hearing
- 31 January 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Mr John Paul Ramsay, Ministerial and Parliamentary Services, Department of Communities and Justice, advising that the secretariat will circulate to Portfolio Committee No. 8 and Portfolio Committee No. 2 the proposal that the Secretary of the Department of Communities and Justice appear at the Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast hearing (PC 2) until the final hour where he will appear at the Customer

Service and Digital Government, Emergency Services, Youth Justice (PC 8) hearing on 28 February 2024.

As previously agreed via email, the committee noted that:

- the correspondence from Mr Michael Tidball, Secretary of the Department of Communities and Justice (27 November 2023), providing corrections to his evidence at the Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast hearing on 1 November 2024 has been published
- footnotes at the relevant points in the transcript on 1 November 2023 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 – initial hearings

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

- answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from Hon Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast, received 23 November 2023
- answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast, received 29 November 2023.

4.2 Resolution for additional hearing

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

4.3 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.

4.4 Witness list

The 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-March 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.

4.5 Witness invitation – Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast hearing

Ms Suvaal moved: That the committee not invite the Hon Dr Michael Holland MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Health, and Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Health to the Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast hearing on 22 February 2024.

Question put.

The committee divided.

Ayes: Mr Buttigieg, Dr Cohn, Mr Donnelly, Ms Faehrmann and Ms Suvaal.

Noes: Mrs Carter and Mr Fang.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

4.6 Witness invitation – Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast hearing

Resolved, on motion of Ms Faehrmann: That the committee invite Ms Rebecca Pinkstone, Chief Executive, Homes NSW, and an additional witness representing the Aboriginal Housing Office, to the Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast hearing on Wednesday 28 February 2024.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Faehrmann: That the committee agree to the following requests from the Minister's Office regarding the Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast hearing on Wednesday 28 February 2024:

- Mr Michael Tidball, Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice, appear until 4.30 pm and then attend the Customer Service and Digital Government, Emergency Services, Youth Justice (PC 8) hearing
- Mr James Toomey, Deputy Secretary, Housing, Disability, District Service and Disaster welfare, not be required to attend.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Faehrmann: That the committee not agree to the request from the Minister's Office that witnesses appear at the Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast on Wednesday 28 February 2024 hearing in time batches.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 1.53 pm until Tuesday 13 February 2024, 9.00 am, Macquarie Room, Parliament House (public hearing – inquiry into the equity, accessibility and appropriate delivery of outpatient and community mental health care in New South Wales).

Kara McKee

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 21

Thursday 22 February 2024

Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.02 am

1. Members present

Dr Cohn, *Chair*

Mrs Carter, *Deputy Chair*

Ms Boyd (participating) (from 2.11 pm until 2.39 pm)

Mr Donnelly (from 9.00 am until 10.48 am, then 11.49 am until 3.33pm, then 4.56 pm until 5.10 pm)

Ms Faehrmann (from 9.00 am until 10.05 am, then 11.55 am until 12.50 pm, then 3.15 pm until 3.25 pm)

Mr Murphy (substituting for Mr Buttigieg)

Ms Suvaal

Mrs Taylor

2. Acknowledgement of Country

3. Draft minutes

Moved on the motion by Mrs Carter: That draft minutes no. 17 be confirmed.

4. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

- 6 February 2024 – Email from Ms India Jones, Office of the Hon Rose Jackson MLC, enclosing a copy of an email with a clearer copy of answers to questions on notice from the initial round of Budget Estimates October to November 2023
- 9 February 2024 – Email from Mr John Paul Ramsay, Ministerial and Parliamentary Services, Department of Communities and Justice, requesting an update as to the witness clash for the Budget Estimates Customer Service and Digital Government, Emergency Services, Youth Justice and Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast hearing on 28 February 2024
- 14 February 2024 – Email from Ms India Jones, Office of the Hon Rose Jackson MLC, advising Ms Famey Williams, Chief Executive will appear for the Aboriginal Housing Office for the Budget Estimates Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast hearing on 28 February 2024
- 14 February 2024 – Email from Ms India Jones, Office of the Hon Rose Jackson MLC, confirming the Minister has agreed to the committee's response to the witness list for the Budget Estimates Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast hearing on 28 February 2024
- 15 February 2024 – Email from Ms Melanie Haskew, Office of the Hon Ryan Park MP, requesting amendment to witness list for the Budget Estimates Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast hearing on 22 February 2024
- 16 February 2024 – Email from Ms India Jones, Office of the Hon Rose Jackson MLC, attaching clearer attachment to answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from the Budget Estimates Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast hearing on 1 November 2023
- 18 February 2024 – Email from the Office of the Hon Rose Jackson MLC, noting change in the agency name from DPE Water to the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for Ms Amanda Jones, a witness attending the Budget Estimates Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast hearing on 28 February 2024.

Sent:

- 6 February 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms India Jones, Office of the Hon Rose Jackson MLC, requesting a clearer version of the answers to supplementary questions from the initial round of Budget Estimates October to November 2023
- 9 February 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms India Jones, Office of the Hon Rose Jackson MLC, clarifying the request for a clearer version of the answers to supplementary questions from the initial round of Budget Estimates October to November 2023
- 9 February 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms Amanda Whitney, Office of the Hon Ryan Park MP, advising that the committee accepts the Minister's proposed amendments to the witness list, attaching witness list and hearing information for the Budget Estimates Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast hearing on 22 February 2024
- 9 February 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Mr John Paul Ramsay, Ministerial and Parliamentary Services, Department of Communities and Justice, advising of the committee's decision to resolve a witness clash for the Budget Estimates Customer Service and Digital Government, Emergency Services, Youth Justice and Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast hearings on 28 February 2024
- 9 February 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms India Jones, Office of the Hon Rose Jackson MP, providing the committee's response to the Minister's proposed amendments to the witness list for the Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast hearing on 28 February 2024
- 14 February 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms India Jones, Office of the Hon Rose Jackson MP, requesting confirmation that the Minister accepts the committee's response to the witness list for the Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast hearing on 28 February 2024
- 14 February 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms India Jones, Office of the Hon Rose Jackson MP, attaching confirmed witness list and hearing information for the Budget Estimates Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast hearing on 28 February 2024

- 20 February 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms Melanie Haskew, Office of the Hon Ryan Park MP, advising the committee has agreed to the Minister's proposed amendment to the witness list for the Budget Estimates Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast hearing on 22 February 2024.

5. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2023-2024

5.1 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.

5.2 Public hearing – Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast

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 Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast was admitted.

The following witnesses were sworn:

- Mr Alfa D'Amato, Chief Financial Officer and Deputy Secretary, Financial Services and Asset Management, NSW Health
- Mr Vincent McTaggart, Executive Director, Strategic Reform and Planning Branch, NSW Health

The following witnesses were examined under their former oath:

- Ms Susan Pearce AM, Secretary, NSW Health
- Ms Deb Willcox AM, Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Patient Experience, NSW Health
- Mr Matthew Daly, Deputy Secretary, System Sustainability and Performance, NSW Health
- Dr Kerry Chant AO PSM, Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary, Population and Public Health, NSW Health
- Mr Luke Sloane, Deputy Secretary, Regional Health, NSW Health
- Mr Phil Minns, Deputy Secretary, People, Culture and Governance, NSW Health
- Mr Jonathan Wheaton, A/Deputy Secretary, Department of Regional NSW
- Ms Rebecca Wark, Chief Executive, Health Infrastructure, NSW Health
- Dr Dominic Morgan ASM, Commissioner and Chief Executive, NSW Ambulance.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast open for examination.

The Minister withdrew at 12.50 pm.

Mr Wheaton withdrew at 2.21 pm.

Mr Morgan withdrew at 3:30 pm.

Mrs Carter tabled the following documents:

- Memo from Deb Wilcox AM, World Class End of Life Care commitment – 2023-24 Service Agreement – Enhancing End of Life Care Paediatrics 2 allocations, dated 15 September 2023
- Memo from Deb Wilcox AM: Enhancing End of Life Care funding and guidelines for paediatric palliative care, dated 7 March 2023.

Dr Cohn tabled the following document:

- Tweet from NSW Health, dated 15 February 2024).

Ms Faehrmann tabled the following documents:

- Community Withdrawal and Residential Rehabilitation Facility – Broken Hill, Proposal, dated June 2023.
- Public drug warning notice issued by NSW Health, dated 29 January 2024.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 5.05 pm. The public and the media withdrew.

5.3 Tended documents

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

- Memo from Deb Wilcox AM, World Class End of Life Care commitment – 2023-24 Service Agreement – Enhancing End of Life Care Paediatrics 2 allocations, dated 15 September 2023, tabled by Mrs Carter
- Memo from Deb Wilcox AM, Enhancing End of Life Care funding and guidelines for paediatric palliative care, dated 7 March 2023, tabled by Mrs Carter
- Tweet from NSW Health, dated 15 February 2024, tabled by Dr Cohn
- Community Withdrawal and Residential Rehabilitation Facility – Broken Hill, Proposal, dated June 2023, tabled by Ms Faehrmann
- Public drug warning notice issued by NSW Health, dated 29 January 2024, tabled by Ms Faehrmann.

6. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5.10 pm until Wednesday 28 February 2024, 9.00 am, Macquarie Room, Parliament House (public hearing – Budget Estimates 2023-2024).

Madeleine Dowd
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 22

Wednesday 28 February 2024

Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.00 am

1. Members present

Dr Cohn, *Chair* (until 10.46 am, from 2.00 pm until 2.45 pm)

Mr Buttigieg (until 12.45 pm, from 3.02 pm until 4.13 pm)

Mr Donnelly (until 3.03 pm, from 4.02 pm)

Ms Faehrmann

Mr Farlow (participating)

Ms Higginson (participating) (from 11.15 am)

Mrs Maclaren-Jones (substituting for Mrs Taylor)

Mrs Mitchell (substituting for Mrs Carter)

Ms Suvaal

2. Acknowledgement of Country

3. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Maclaren-Jones: That draft minutes no. 21 be confirmed.

4. Election of Deputy Chair for the Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast hearing

The Chair called for nominations for Deputy Chair.

Ms Faehrmann moved: That Ms Faehrmann be elected Deputy Chair of the committee for the purposes of the hearing.

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

5. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2023-2024

5.1 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.

5.2 Public hearing – Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast

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 Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast was admitted.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Ms Amanda Jones, Deputy Secretary, NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water - Water
- Ms Rebecca Pinkstone, Chief Executive, Homes NSW
- Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte, Chief Scientist & Engineer

The following witnesses were examined on their former oath:

- Ms Deb Willcox AM, Deputy Secretary Health System Strategy and Patient Experience, NSW Ministry of Health
- Mr Andrew George, CEO, WaterNSW
- Mr Roch Cheroux, Managing Director, Sydney Water
- Mr Jonathan Wheaton, A/Deputy Secretary, Regional NSW
- Dr Brendan Flynn, Executive Director Mental Health Branch, NSW Ministry of Health
- Dr Murray Wright, Chief Psychiatrist, NSW Ministry of Health
- Mr Michael Tidball, Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice
- Ms Anne Campbell, Deputy Secretary Strategy, Policy and Commissioning, Department of Communities and Justice
- Ms Famey Williams, CEO, Aboriginal Housing Office
- Mr Grant Barnes, CRO, Natural Resources Access Regulator
- Mr Darren Cleary, Managing Director, Hunter Water
- Ms Zoe Robinson, Advocate for Children and Young People.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast open for examination.

The Minister withdrew at 12.45 pm.

Mr Jonathan Wheaton, Ms Rebecca Pinkstone and Ms Famey Williams withdrew at 3.06 pm.

Mr Darren Cleary withdrew at 3.33 pm.

Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte withdrew at 4.12 pm.

Mr Michael Tidball withdrew at 4.26 pm.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

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

6. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5.13 pm, *sine die*.

Sharon Ohnesorge / Madeleine Dowd

Committee Clerk

Draft minutes no. 24

Tuesday 11 June 2024

Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health

Room 1136, Parliament House, Sydney, at 12.00 pm

1. Members present

Dr Cohn, *Chair*

Mrs Carter, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Buttigieg (from 12.07 pm)

Mr Donnelly

Ms Faehrmann (via videoconference)

Ms Suvaal (via teleconference from 12.01 am)

Mrs Taylor (via videoconference)

2. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Faehrmann: That draft minutes no. 22 be confirmed.

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 12 March 2024 – Letter from Ms Rebecca Pinkstone, Chief Executive Officer, Homes NSW, to the Chair, seeking clarifications to her evidence given at the Portfolio Committee No. 2 Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast hearing on Wednesday 28 February 2024
- 20 March 2024 – Letter from the Hon Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast, to the Chair, seeking clarifications to his evidence given at the Portfolio Committee No. 2 Health, Regional health, the Illawarra and the South Coast hearing on Thursday 22 February 2024
- 27 March 2024 – Email from Ms India Jones, Office of the Hon Rose Jackson MLC, to the secretariat, advising that incorrect post hearing responses were provided to the secretariat, and attaching the correct versions for the Budget Estimates Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast hearing on Wednesday 28 February 2024.

Sent

- 28 February 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon Ryan Park MP, issuing uncorrected transcript, questions on notice and supplementary questions from the hearing on 22 February 2024

- 5 March 2024 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon Rose Jackson MLC, issuing uncorrected transcript, questions on notice and supplementary questions from the hearing on 28 February 2024.

The committee noted that:

- the correspondence dated 20 March 2024 from the Hon Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast, providing clarifications to his evidence at the Portfolio Committee No. 2 Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast hearing on Thursday 22 February 2024 has been published
- footnotes at the relevant points in the transcript on Thursday 22 February 2024 have been inserted noting that correspondence clarifying the evidence had been received and providing a hyperlink to the published correspondence
- the correspondence dated 12 March 2024 from Ms Rebecca Pinkstone, Chief Executive Officer, Homes NSW, providing clarifications to her evidence at the Portfolio Committee No. 2 Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast hearing on Wednesday 28 February 2024 has been published
- footnotes at the relevant points in the transcript on Wednesday 28 February 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 following answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions were published by the committee clerk under the authorisation of the resolution appointing the committee:

- answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from the Hon Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast, received 20 March 2024
- answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from the Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast, received 27 March 2024.

4.2 Consideration of Chair's draft report

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

Chapter 1

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Carter: That the first paragraph of the introduction be amended by omitting 'parliamentary committees' and inserting instead 'Parliament'.

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Carter: That:

The draft report as amended 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. ***

6. **Adjournment**

The committee adjourned at 12.11 pm, *sine die*.

Kara McKee
Committee Clerk

