



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 7

Budget Estimates 2024-2025

Report 25

June 2025

7



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Portfolio Committee No. 7 - Planning and Environment

Budget Estimates 2024-2025

Published on 27 June 2025 according to Standing Order 238

New South Wales. Parliament. Legislative Council. Portfolio Committee No. 7 - Planning and Environment. Report no. 25.

Budget Estimates 2024-2025

"June 2025"

Chair: Ms Sue Higginson MLC



A catalogue record for this book is available from the National Library of Australia

ISBN: 978-1-922960-88-7

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Terms of reference

Initial hearings

1. That the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2024-2025 presenting the amounts to be appropriated from the Consolidated Fund be referred to the Portfolio Committees for inquiry and report.
2. That, as per the resolution of the House on 21 November 2023 adopting the 2024 sitting calendar, the 2024-2025 supplementary budget estimates hearings are to be held from 2 December to 6 December 2024.
3. That, further to the resolution of the House of 21 November 2023 adopting the 2024 sitting calendar, the 2024-2025 initial budget estimates hearings be scheduled as follows:

Day One: Tuesday 27 August 2024

PC 3 Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney

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

Day Two: Wednesday 28 August 2024

PC 1 Premier

PC 4 Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport

Day Three: Thursday 29 August 2024

PC 1 Treasurer

PC 7 Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage

Day Four: Friday 30 August 2024

PC 5 Police and Counter Terrorism, the Hunter

PC 7 Planning and Public Spaces

PC 1 The Legislature

Day Five: Tuesday 3 September 2024

PC 6 Transport

PC 5 Families and Communities, Disability Inclusion

Day Six: Wednesday 4 September 2024

PC 5 Attorney-General

PC 3 Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

Day Seven: Thursday 5 September 2024

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

PC 8 Local Government

Day Eight: Friday 6 September 2024

PC 6	Special Minister of State, Roads, Arts, Music and the Night-time Economy, Jobs and Tourism
PC 1	Aboriginal Affairs & Treaty, Gaming & Racing, Veterans, Central Coast, Medical Research

Day Nine: Monday 9 September 2024

PC 8	Emergency Services, Youth Justice, Customer Service & Digital Government
PC 2	Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast
PC 6	Regional Transport and Roads

Day Ten: Tuesday 10 September 2024

PC 2	Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast
PC 8	Corrections, Better Regulation & Fair Trading, Industry & Trade, Innovation, Science & Technology, Building

Day Eleven: Wednesday 11 September 2024

PC 5	Women, Seniors, Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
PC 1	Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety

4. That for the purposes of the 2024-2025 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, and
 - (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.
5. That, unless the committee decides otherwise:
 - (a) the sequence of questions to be asked at the hearings for the following portfolios alternate between opposition and crossbench members, in that order, with equal time allocated to each:
 - (i) Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney
 - (ii) Premier
 - (iii) Treasurer
 - (iv) Police and Counter Terrorism, the Hunter
 - (v) Transport
 - (vi) Attorney-General
 - (vii) Finance, Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, Natural Resources

- (viii) Special Minister of State, Roads, Arts, Music and the Night-time Economy, Jobs and Tourism
 - (ix) Emergency Services, Youth Justice, Customer Service and Digital
 - (x) Regional Transport and Roads
 - (xi) Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast
 - (xii) Women, Seniors, Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- (b) the sequence of questions to be asked at the hearings for the following portfolios alternate between crossbench and opposition members, in that order, with equal time allocated to each:
- (i) Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales
 - (ii) Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport
 - (iii) Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage
 - (iv) Planning and Public Spaces
 - (v) Families and Communities, Disability Inclusion
 - (vi) Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education
 - (vii) Local Government
 - (viii) Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Central Coast, Medical Research
 - (ix) Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast
 - (x) Corrections, Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Industry and Trade, Innovation, Science and Technology, Building
 - (xi) Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety.
6. That for the purposes of the 2024-2025 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, and

- (f) answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions are to be published, except those answers for which confidentiality is requested, after they have been circulated to committee members.
- (g) That the committees report by 27 June 2025.¹

¹ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 20 June 2024, Item 4.

Additional hearings

1. That, further to the resolution of the House of 20 June 2024 referring Budget Estimates 2024-2025 to the Portfolio Committees for inquiry and report, and the resolution of the House of 12 November 2024 adopting the 2025 sitting calendar, the 2024-2025 additional budget estimates hearings be scheduled as follows:

Day One: Tuesday 25 February 2025

PC 3 Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney
PC 4 Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales

Day Two: Wednesday 26 February 2025

PC 1 Premier
PC 4 Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport

Day Three: Thursday 27 February 2025

PC 2 Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast
PC 5 Women, Seniors, Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Day Four: Friday 28 February 2025

PC 5 Attorney-General
PC 8 Local Government

Day Five: Monday 3 March 2025

PC 7 Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage
PC 1 Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety

Day Six: Tuesday 4 March 2025

PC 7 Planning and Public Spaces
PC 1 Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, the Central Coast, Medical Research

Day Seven: Wednesday 5 March 2025

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

Day Eight: Thursday 6 March 2025

PC 1 Finance, Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, Natural Resources
PC 6 Regional Transport and Roads

Day Nine: Friday 7 March 2025

PC 2 Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast

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

Day Ten: Monday 10 March 2025

PC 5 Families and Communities, Disability Inclusion

PC 3 Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

Day Eleven: Tuesday 11 March 2025

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

PC 1 The Legislature

Day Twelve: Wednesday 12 March 2025

PC 6 Transport

PC 5 Police and Counter Terrorism, the Hunter

2. That, unless the committee decides otherwise:

- (a) the sequence of questions to be asked at the hearings for the following portfolios alternate between opposition and crossbench members, in that order, with equal time allocated to each:
 - (i) Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney,
 - (ii) Premier,
 - (iii) Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast,
 - (iv) Attorney-General,
 - (v) Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage,
 - (vi) Planning and Public Spaces,
 - (vii) Treasurer,
 - (viii) Finance, Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, Natural Resources,
 - (ix) Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast,
 - (x) Families and Communities, Disability Inclusion,
 - (xi) Special Minister of State, Roads, Arts, Music and the Night-time Economy, Jobs and Tourism,
 - (xii) Transport, and

- (b) the sequence of questions to be asked at the hearings for the following portfolios alternate between crossbench and opposition members, in that order, with equal time allocated to each:
 - (i) Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales,
 - (ii) Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport,
 - (iii) Women, Seniors, Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault,
 - (iv) Local Government,
 - (v) Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety,
 - (vi) Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, the Central Coast, Medical Research,
 - (vii) Customer Service and Digital Government, Emergency Services, Youth Justice,
 - (viii) Regional Transport and Roads,
 - (ix) Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Industry and Trade, Innovation, Science and Technology, Building, Corrections,
 - (x) Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education,
 - (xi) The Legislature,
 - (xii) Police and Counter Terrorism, the Hunter.
- 3. That for the purposes of the 2024-2025 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, and
 - (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.
- 4. That for the purposes of the 2024-2025 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, and

- (f) answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions are to be published, except those answers for which confidentiality is requested, after they have been circulated to committee members.²

² *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 21 November 2024, Item 3.

Further additional hearings

1. That this House notes that:

- (a) on 21 November 2024, the House adopted a schedule of additional budget estimates hearings for 2024-2025 over 12 working days from 25 February 2025 to 12 March 2025,
- (b) the following three hearings were unable to be conducted as scheduled by the relevant committees due to the impact of Cyclone Alfred and the unavailability of ministers and other witnesses:

Day Seven: Wednesday 5 March 2025

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

Day Eight: Thursday 6 March 2025

PC 6 Regional Transport and Roads

Day Nine: Friday 7 March 2025

PC 2 Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast

- (c) following this, that Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health rescheduled the original additional hearing to the following date:

Day Thirteen: Friday 14 March 2025

PC 2 Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast

- 2. That in view of the inability of Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health, to conduct the original additional hearing, the House endorse the further additional hearing held on 14 March 2025.
- 3. That in view of the inability of Portfolio Committee No. 6 – Transport and the Arts and Portfolio Committee No. 8 – Customer Service to conduct the hearings, the committees be authorised to undertake the hearings as follows under the same arrangements as originally agreed to by the House on 21 November 2024:

Day Fourteen: Tuesday 1 April 2025

PC 6 Roads, Regional Transport

Day Fifteen: Friday 11 April 2025

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

- 4. That the NSW Reconstruction Authority be invited to appear from 9.15 am to 5.30 pm at the rescheduled Portfolio Committee No. 8 – Customer Service additional budget estimates hearing to be held on Friday 11 April 2025.
- 5. That for the purposes of the 2024-2025 further additional budget estimates hearings, 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.

6. That for the purposes of the 2024-2025 further 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, and
 - (f) answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions are to be published, except those answers for which confidentiality is requested, after they have been circulated to committee members.³

³ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 19 March 2025, Item 15.

Committee details

Committee members

Ms Sue Higginson MLC	The Greens	<i>Chair</i>
Hon John Ruddick MLC	Libertarian Party	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Hon Anthony D'Adam MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Hon Scott Farlow MLC	Liberal Party	
Hon Jacqui Munro MLC	Liberal Party	
Hon Peter Primrose MLC	Australian Labor Party	

Non-substantive members who attended the hearings

Ms Abigail Boyd MLC	The Greens
Dr Amanda Cohn MLC	The Greens
Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC	The Greens
Hon Wes Fang MLC	The Nationals
Hon Stephen Lawrence MLC	Australian Labor Party
Hon Tania Mihailuk MLC	Independent
Hon Cameron Murphy MLC	Australian Labor Party
Hon Nichole Overall MLC	The Nationals
Hon Natalie Ward MLC	Liberal Party

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Chair's foreword

I am pleased to present this report on the inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025. 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. 7 – Planning and Environment is responsible for the scrutiny of the following portfolio areas:

- Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage
- Planning and Public Spaces.

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.

Ms Sue Higginson 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 gathering 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 2024-2025

- 1.1 On 20 June 2024, the Legislative Council referred the Budget Estimates for the 2024-2025 financial year to the portfolio committees for inquiry and report.⁴
- 1.2 The Legislative Council resolved that initial hearings for Budget Estimates 2024-2025 be held over 11 days from 27 August to 30 August 2024, 3 September to 6 September 2024 and 9 September to 11 September 2024 and that supplementary hearings be scheduled from 2 December to 6 December 2024.⁵
- 1.3 On 21 November 2024, the Legislative Council resolved that additional hearings for Budget Estimates 2024-2025 be held over 12 days from 25 February 2025 to 28 February 2025, 3 March 2025 to 7 March 2025, and 10 March 2025 to 12 March 2025.⁶
- 1.4 Three additional hearings were rescheduled due to the impact of Cyclone Alfred and the unavailability of ministers and other witnesses.⁷
- 1.5 The Budget Estimates resolution establishing the inquiry, which sets out the rules for the inquiry, is reproduced on page iv-xiii.

Hearings

- 1.6 The committee held public hearings as follows:
 - 29 August 2024 and 3 March 2025: Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage
 - 30 August 2024 and 4 March 2025: Planning and Public Spaces.

⁴ Minutes, NSW Legislative Council, 20 June 2024, pp 1295-1298.

⁵ Minutes, NSW Legislative Council, 21 November 2023, pp 670-671; Minutes, NSW Legislative Council, 20 June 2024, pp 1295-1298.

⁶ Minutes, NSW Legislative Council, 21 November 2024, pp 1901-1904.

⁷ Minutes, NSW Legislative Council, 19 March 2025, pp 2154-2155.

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.

Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage

2.1 A hearing examining the portfolios of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage was held on Thursday 29 August 2024. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of these portfolios:

- the Forestry Industry Action Plan, including the Independent Forestry Panel and community consultation
- renewable energy, including targets and current projects, Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) and the Net Zero Commission
- the NSW Environment Protection Authority's investigation into asbestos-contaminated mulch at various locations across New South Wales
- the Great Koala National Park
- energy infrastructure, including the Eraring Power Station and Bayswater Power Station
- McPhillamys Gold Project, including assessment of cultural heritage
- matters pertaining to endangered and threatened species including the government's Saving our Species program, the green and golden bell frog, and the Auditor-General's report 'Threatened species and ecological communities'
- Mount Warning/Wollumbin, including safety and maintenance of the walking track, and community consultation and perspectives on the use of the site
- pollution and pollutants, including PFAS
- bird flu (Avian influenza) outbreak
- the Electrical Trades Union industrial action against Transgrid
- delivery of the Central-West Orana Transmission Project.

2.2 An additional hearing was held on Monday 3 March 2025 and the following issues were raised:

- the extension of Eraring Power Station and its potential impact on the Net Zero Commission's emissions reduction target for 2030
- progress of the NSW Hydrogen Strategy including the number of actions delivered
- progress of wetlands mapping for the Murrumbidgee Water Sharing Plan
- issues surrounding the Bulagaranda Aboriginal Area and Mount Warning/Wollumbin Aboriginal Place, including payments made to Part 4A joint management boards and the prohibition on climbing Mount Warning's/Wollumbin's summit

- the Great Koala National Park, including the use of consultants (Mandala Partners) for its social and economic assessment
- culling of brumbies in Kosciuszko National Park
- listing of Ravensworth Homestead on the State Heritage Register
- roll out of the Renewable Energy Zones, including issues surrounding transmission lines and procurement of transformer equipment
- the NSW Chief Scientist's report on asbestos in waste
- single use plastics in New South Wales
- energy from waste
- funding for Food Organics and Garden Organics roll out
- heritage listing of Braidwood and restoration of the Braidwood Heritage Centre
- remediation of contaminated lands by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), including lead contamination at Captains Flat
- environmental impact assessment for new coal projects and expansion of existing ones
- Biodiversity Conservation Trust
- number of koalas in New South Wales
- logging in state forests including classification of and reporting on biomaterials
- EPA regulation of pesticide and chemical use in primary industries/agriculture
- progress against the Audit Office's performance audit of state heritage assets.

Planning and Public Spaces

2.3 A hearing examining the portfolio of Planning and Public Spaces was held on Friday 30 August 2024. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of these portfolios:

- tree canopy cover in urban areas, including reforms and collaboration with local councils to enhance public spaces
- mine projects, including Bowdens Silver Project, and the Appin Mine and its environmental impact, and issues related to accuracy and transparency
- the Independent Planning Commission and its role assessing projects
- housing supply and affordability, including development under the Transport Oriented Development Program, the impact of planning reforms on the housing market, and the impact of BASIX (Building Sustainability Index) standards on housing costs and energy efficiency
- progress under the National Housing Accord, including the number of homes under construction and expectations for delivery

- rezoning of land and height restrictions/increases, and concerns about potential influences in rezoning decisions
- industrial action by the Electrical Trades Union and concerns about any impact on new home construction
- disclosure of meetings between the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces and lobbyists, and issues regarding transparency
- Western Sydney Airport and associated infrastructure projects, including the Western Sydney Aerotropolis
- the impact of the *Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act 2023* and recent EPA guidelines for project assessments
- flood risk and recovery efforts, including the Resilient Homes Program and other programs aimed at raising and retrofitting homes to improve resilience in floods, and temporary housing arrangements for impacted residents
- reforms within the NSW Reconstruction Authority and its role in disaster response.

2.4 An additional hearing was held on Tuesday 4 March 2025 and the following issues were raised:

- the process to identify locations for low to mid-rise housing developments
- the progress of the transport oriented development policy
- the process for approving coal mining projects, including the Vickery and Moolarben projects and the advice of the Net Zero Commission
- the consultation process, design and cost of the project to redevelop Moore Park golf course
- the management of the flood affected houses in Lismore bought by the NSW Reconstruction Authority
- how the planning system regulates the use of dark roofs and whether the number of dark roofs approved is recorded in the BASIX system
- integration of climate change considerations in planning laws
- the status of the draft guidelines for synthetic turf in public open spaces
- the government approach to 'zombie' development applications
- the quantum and expenditure of funds raised by the Housing and Productivity Contribution
- the number of new dwellings approved under the housing supply policies
- process for tracking and reporting on new dwellings delivered as a result of housing supply policies
- the potential for conflicts of interest for some members of the Expert Advisory Panel for Mining
- the consultation process for the Coffs Harbour Jetty Foreshore project

- changes to development consent planning pathways for non-government schools
- the number of renewable energy projects being planned in New South Wales, including the number approved since March 2024
- the status of the Luddenham Village rezoning proposal and the status of advice from the Commonwealth government on flights paths for that area
- decommissioning and rehabilitation requirements for wind and solar energy projects and the liability of the land holder for these projects.

Appendix 1 Witnesses at hearings

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
Thursday 29 August 2024 Macquarie Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Penny Sharpe MLC	Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage
	Mr Anthony Lean	Secretary, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
	Mr Tony Chappell	CEO, NSW Environment Protection Authority
	Mr Stephen Beaman	Executive Director, Regulatory Practice and Services, NSW Environment Protection Authority
	Mr Brendan Bruce	Deputy Secretary, Biodiversity, Conservation and Science, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
	Mr Sam Kidman	Executive Director, Heritage NSW, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
	Dr Erin Giuliani	Chief Executive Officer, Biodiversity Conservation Trust, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
	Ms Kim Curtain	Deputy Secretary, Energy, Climate Change and Sustainability, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
	Mr James Hay	Chief Executive Officer, Energy Corporation of NSW, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
	Mr Atticus Fleming	Deputy Secretary, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
	Ms Naomi Stephens	Executive Director, Park Operations (Coastal) National Parks and Wildlife

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
	Mr Liam Ryan	Service, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Advising Executive Director, Energy, Climate Change and Sustainability, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
	Ms Sharon Molloy	Executive Director, Conservation Policy and Programs, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
	Mr Mark Westbrook	Chief Project Officer, Energy Corporation of NSW
	Hon Paul Scully MP	Minister for Planning and Public Spaces
Friday 30 August 2024 Macquarie Room Parliament House, Sydney	Ms Kiersten Fishburn	Secretary, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
	Ms Monica Gibson	Deputy Secretary, Planning, Land Use Strategy, Housing and Infrastructure, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
	Mr David Gainsford	Deputy Secretary, Development Assessments and Sustainability, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
	Ms Melanie Hawyes	Deputy Secretary, Crown Lands and Public Spaces, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
	Mr James Hebron	Acting Chief Operating Officer, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
	Mr Mal Lanyon APM	Acting Chief Executive Officer, NSW Reconstruction Authority
	Mr Andrew Graham	Chief Financial and Operating Officer, NSW Reconstruction Authority
	Ms Amanda Leck	Head, Adaptation, Mitigation and Reconstruction Group, NSW Reconstruction Authority
	Ms Joanna Quilty	Head, Preparedness and Recovery Group, NSW Reconstruction Authority

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
	Mr Alex Wendler	Chief Executive Officer, Landcom
Monday 3 March 2025 Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Penny Sharpe MLC	Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage
	Mr Anthony Lean	Secretary, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
	Mr Tony Chappel	Chief Executive Officer, NSW Environment Protection Authority
	Mr Stephen Beaman	Executive Director, Regulatory Practice and Services, NSW Environment Protection Authority
	Dr Louisa Mamouny	A/Deputy Secretary, Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
	Ms Elizabeth Owers	A/Executive Director, Heritage NSW, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
	Dr Erin Giuliani	Chief Executive Officer, Biodiversity Conservation Trust
	Ms Kim Curtain	Deputy Secretary, Energy, Climate Change and Sustainability, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
	Ms Hannah McCaughey	A/Chief Executive Officer, Energy Corporation of NSW
	Ms Naomi Stephens	A/Deputy Secretary, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
	Ms Alison Pepper	A/Deputy Secretary, Strategic Policy, Science and Engagement, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
	Mr Liam Ryan	Advising Executive Director, Energy, Climate Change and Sustainability,

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
		Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
	Ms Sharon Molloy	Executive Director, Nature and Natural Capital Strategy, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
	Ms Trish Harrup	Executive Director, Conservation and Aboriginal Partnerships, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
	Mr Ash Albury	Executive Director, Planning and Communities, Energy Corporation of NSW
	Mr Mark Westbrook	Chief Project Officer, Energy Corporation of NSW
Tuesday 4 March 2025 Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Paul Scully MP	Minister for Planning and Public Spaces
	Ms Kiersten Fishburn	Secretary, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
	Ms Monica Gibson	Deputy Secretary, Planning, Land Use Strategy, Housing and Infrastructure, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
	Mr David Gainsford	Deputy Secretary, Development Assessment and Sustainability, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
	Mr Christopher Martin	Acting Deputy Secretary, Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
	Mr Clay Preshaw	Executive Director, Energy, Resources and Industry, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
	Mr Mal Lanyon APM	Acting Chief Executive Officer, NSW Reconstruction Authority
	Mr Andrew Graham	Chief Financial and Operating Officer, NSW Reconstruction Authority

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
	Ms Amanda Leck	Head, Adaptation, Mitigation and Reconstruction Group, NSW Reconstruction Authority
	Ms Joanna Quilty	Head, Preparedness and Recovery Group, NSW Reconstruction Authority
	Mr Alex Wendler	Chief Executive Officer, Landcom

Appendix 2 Minutes

Minutes no. 30

Wednesday 17 July 2024

Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment

Via Videoconference at 11.02 am

1. Members present

Ms Higginson, *Chair*

Mr Ruddick, *Deputy Chair*

Mr D'Adam

Mr Donnelly (substituting for Mr Buttigieg)

Ms Munro

Mr Primrose

2. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Donnelly: That draft minutes no. 29 be confirmed.

3. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025 – procedural resolutions

The committee noted that the Budget Estimates timetable for 2024-2025 was agreed to by the House with hearings generally commencing at 9.15 am and concluding by 5.30 pm. The committee noted the following timetable of Portfolio Committee No. 7 hearings.

Date	Portfolio
Thursday 29 August 2024	Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage
Friday 30 August 2024	Planning and Public Spaces

3.1 Allocation of question time and total hearing time

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 resolution:

- (a) each portfolio, except The Legislature is to 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 is to 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.

3.2 Sequence of questions

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 resolution, unless the committee decides otherwise, the sequence of questions to be asked at the hearings for the following portfolios is to alternate between *crossbench and opposition members, in that order*, with equal time allocated to each:

- Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage
- Planning and Public Spaces.

3.3 Witness requests

The committee noted a list of witnesses who appeared at additional hearings for Budget Estimates 2023-2024 for the portfolios relevant to Portfolio Committee No. 7, with an additional witness included at the direction of the Chair.

Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage

Witness	
Mr Anthony Lean	Secretary, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Mr Brendan Bruce	Deputy Secretary, Biodiversity, Conservation and Science, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Mr Matthew Clark	A/Executive Director, Heritage NSW, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Dr Erin Giuliani	Chief Executive Officer, Biodiversity Conservation Trust, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Ms Alison Pepper	A/Deputy Secretary, Energy, Climate Change and Sustainability, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Mr James Hay	Chief Executive Officer, Energy Corporation of NSW, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Mr Matthew Riley	Director Climate and Atmospheric Science, Science, Economics and Insights Division, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (inclusion at Chair's direction)
Mr Tony Chappel	Chief Executive Officer, NSW Environment Protection Authority
Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte	Deputy Chair, Net Zero Emissions and Clean Energy Board
Mr Robert Smith	Executive Director Park Operations Inland, National Parks and Wildlife Service
Ms Naomi Stephens	Executive Director, Park Operations (Coastal), National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Ms Sharon Molloy	Executive Director, Biodiversity and Conservation Division, Biodiversity, Conservation and Science, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Ms Trish Harrup	Executive Director, Conservation and Aboriginal Partnerships, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Mr Liam Ryan	Advising Executive Director, Energy, Climate Change and Sustainability, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Mr Mark Westbrook	Chief Project Officer, Energy Corporation of NSW, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Ms Nancy Chang	Executive Director, Strategy and Policy, NSW Environment Protection Authority
Mr Stephen Beaman	Executive Director, Regulatory Practice and Services, NSW Environment Protection Authority
Mr Jason Gordon	Executive Director, Operations, NSW Environment Protection Authority

Planning and Public Spaces

Witness	
Ms Kiersten Fishburn	Secretary, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Ms Monica Gibson	Deputy Secretary, Planning, Land Use Strategy and Housing, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Mr David Gainsford	Deputy Secretary, Development Assessments and Infrastructure, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Ms Melanie Hawyes	Deputy Secretary, Crown Lands and Public Spaces, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Mr James Hebron	A/Chief Operating Officer, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Mr Simon Draper PSM	Chief Executive Officer, NSW Reconstruction Authority
Ms Simone Walker	Deputy Chief Executive Officer, NSW Reconstruction Authority
Mr Matt Conrow	Chief Financial and Operating Officer, NSW Reconstruction Authority
Ms Amanda Leck	Head, Adaptation, Mitigation and Reconstruction Group, NSW Reconstruction Authority
Ms Joanna Quilty	Head, Preparedness and Recovery Group, NSW Reconstruction Authority
Mr Alex Wendler	Chief Executive Officer, Landcom
Mr Clay Preshaw	Executive Director, Energy, Resources and Industry

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Primrose: That:

- members be given 48 hours to consider the list of witnesses who appeared before portfolio committee no. 7 at initial hearings for Budget Estimates 2023-2024, and propose amendments or nominate additional witnesses by email (noting that where a witness no longer occupies a position their proposed inclusion in the witness list is taken to be a reference to their position)
- the committee agree to the witness list by email, unless a meeting of the committee is required to resolve any disagreement
- once the witness list is agreed, the secretariat write to the ministers of portfolios being examined by the committee to communicate the witness list and invite the nomination of any additional witnesses, for the committee's consideration, prior to it settling on a final witness list.

3.4 Witness appearance time

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 resolution Ministers are invited to appear for the morning sessions only, 9.15 am to 1.00 pm, unless requested by the committee to also appear for the afternoon session.

4. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 11.04 am, until Wednesday 24 July 2024, 8.50 am, Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Inquiry into the development of the Transport Oriented Development Program (public hearing).

Elsbeth Dyer
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 33

Thursday 29 August 2024

Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.00 am

1. Members present

Ms Higginson, *Chair*

Mr Ruddick, *Deputy Chair* (until 4.54 pm)

Ms Boyd (participating) (from 11.15 am until 11.23 am)

Mr Buttigieg (until 12.51 pm; from 4.05 pm)

Dr Cohn (participating) (from 11.15 am until 11.35 am; from 3.45 pm until 3.54 pm)

Mr D'Adam (until 3.00 pm; from 5.10 pm)

Ms Faehrmann (participating) (from 11.15 am until 12.27 pm; from 2.00 pm until 2.16 pm; from 4.21 pm until 5.15 pm)

Mr Fang (substituting for Ms Munro) (until 10.17 am; from 11.15 am)

Ms Mihailuk (participating) (from 9.35 am until 10.12 am)

Mr Primrose (until 12.51 pm; from 2.55 pm until 4.05 pm; from 4.51 pm)

Mrs Ward (substituting for Mr Farlow)

2. Apologies

3. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Primrose: That draft minutes no. 30 be confirmed.

4. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 6 August 2024 – Email from Peta Sainsbery, office of the Hon Paul Scully MP, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, providing the Minister's proposed amendments to the witness list for PC7 Budget Estimates hearing for his portfolios, 30 August 2024
- 7 August 2024 – Emails from Tamsin Lloyd and Jananie Janarthana, office of the Hon Penny Sharpe MLC, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, providing the Minister's proposed changes to the witness list for PC7 Budget Estimates hearing for her portfolios, 29 August 2024, and further detail concerning those proposed changes
- 8 August 2024 – Email from Peta Sainsbery, office of Hon Paul Scully MP, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, providing further detail concerning the Minister's proposed amendments to the witness list for PC7 Budget Estimates hearing for his portfolios, 30 August 2024.

Sent

- 31 July 2024 – Email to the Hon Penny Sharpe MLC, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, inviting the Minister to appear at the PC7 Budget Estimates hearing for her portfolios, 29 August 2024 and attaching the witness list agreed to by the committee
- 31 July 2024 – Email to the Hon Paul Scully MP, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, inviting him to appear at the PC7 Budget Estimates hearing for his portfolios, 30 August 2024, and attaching the witness list agreed to by the committee.

5. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025**5.1 Order for examination of portfolios**

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 resolution:

- (c) each portfolio, except The Legislature is to 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 Sequence of questions

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 resolution, unless the committee decides otherwise, the sequence of questions to be asked at the hearings for the portfolios of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage is to alternate between crossbench and opposition members, in that order, with equal time allocated to each.

5.3 Public hearing - Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage (Sharpe)

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 Penny Sharpe MLC, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage was admitted and examined.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Mr Anthony Lean, Secretary, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- Mr Tony Chapell, CEO, NSW Environment Protection Authority.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage open for examination.

Mr Fang tabled the following documents:

- NSW EPA Clean-Up Notice 3507919
- Sample asbestos weights in public areas
- Envirolab group – Certificate of Analysis 341582
- NSW EPA press release – VE Resource Recovery licence conditions strengthened 26 April 2024
- Kimbriki Statement re Contamination in Organic Waste.

Ms Higginson tabled the following document:

- NSW EPA Correspondence – M Speakman – Recovered fines and exemption orders 1 December 2021.

Mr Fang tabled the following documents:

- Photo set including school site
- Photo set including forest logging
- Extract of Portfolio Committee No. 3 Education Hansard extract from 27 August 2024.

The Minister withdrew at 12.51 pm.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined (from 2.00 pm):

- Mr Stephen Beaman, Executive Director, Regulatory Practice and Services, NSW Environment Protection Authority
- Mr Brendan Bruce, Deputy Secretary, Biodiversity, Conservation and Science, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- Mr Sam Kidman, Executive Director, Heritage NSW, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- Dr Erin Giuliani, Chief Executive Officer, Biodiversity Conservation Trust, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- Ms Kim Curtain, Deputy Secretary, Energy, Climate Change and Sustainability, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- Mr James Hay, Chief Executive, Energy Corporation of NSW
- Mr Atticus Fleming, Deputy Secretary, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- Ms Naomi Stephens, Executive Director, Park Operations (Coastal) National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- Mr Liam Ryan, Advising Executive Director, Energy, Climate Change and Sustainability, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- Ms Sharon Molloy, Executive Director, Conservation Policy and Programs, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- Mr Mark Westbrook, Chief Project Officer, Energy Corporation of NSW.

Mr Fang tabled the following documents:

- Photo set including the Scheyville National Park.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 5.25 pm. The public and the media withdrew.

5.4 Tabled documents

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Fang: That the committee defer consideration of the publication status of the following document tabled by Mr Fang during the Budget Estimates Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage hearing:

- Sample asbestos weights in public areas.

Resolved on the motion of Mr Fang: That the committee accept and keep confidential the following document tabled by Mr Fang during the Budget Estimates Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage hearing:

- Envirolab group – Certificate of Analysis 341582.

Resolved on the motion of Mr Fang: That the committee accept and publish the following documents tabled during the Budget Estimates Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage hearing:

- NSW EPA Clean-Up Notice 3507919 tabled by Mr Fang
- NSW EPA press release – VE Resource Recovery licence conditions strengthened 26 April 2024 tabled by Mr Fang
- Kimbriki Statement re Contamination in Organic Waste tabled by Mr Fang
- Photo set including school site tabled by Mr Fang
- Photo set including forest logging tabled by Mr Fang
- Photo set including the Scheyville National Park tabled by Mr Fang
- Extract of Portfolio Committee No. 3 Education Hansard extract from 27 August 2024 tabled by Mr Fang
- NSW EPA Correspondence – M Speakman – Recovered fines and exemption orders 1 December 2021 tabled by Ms Higginson.

: -

6. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5.37 pm, until Friday 30 August 2024, 9.00am, Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Budget Estimates 2024-2024 – Planning and Public Spaces (public hearing).

Kara McKee

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 34

Friday 30 August 2024

Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Public Spaces

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.04 am

1. Members present

Ms Higginson, *Chair* (until 10.17 am, from 10.43 am until 12.22 pm, from 12.40 pm until 4.00 pm, and from 4.30 pm)

Mr Ruddick, *Deputy Chair* (until 11.53 am)

Mr Farlow

Mr Buttigieg (until 12.48 pm, from 4.00 pm)

Mr D'Adam (until 12.48 pm, from 3.02 pm until 4.03 pm, from 5.03 pm)

Ms Faehrmann (participating from 11.38 am until 12.22 pm, from 12.40 pm until 12.46 pm, from 3.55 pm until 4.00 pm, from 4.30 pm until 4.54 pm; and substituting for Ms Higginson from 12.22 pm until 12.40 pm, and from 4.00 pm until 4.30 pm)

Ms Munro

Mr Primrose (until 3.02 pm, and from 4.56 pm)

2. Election of Acting Chair

The Chair noted that she would be moving between Budget Estimates hearings for the day and that the Deputy Chair would also be absent for parts of the meeting.

The Chair called for nominations for a member to act as Chair in the absence of the Chair and Deputy Chair during the meeting.

Ms Munro moved: That Mr Farlow be elected to act as Chair during absences of the Chair and Deputy Chair during the meeting.

There being no further nominations, the Chair declared Mr Farlow elected to act as Chair during the absences of the Chair and Deputy Chair during the meeting.

3. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025

3.1 Order for examination of portfolios

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 resolution:

- (d) each portfolio, except The Legislature is to 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 Sequence of questions

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 resolution, unless the committee decides otherwise, the sequence of questions to be asked at the hearings for the portfolio of Planning and Public Spaces is to alternate between crossbench and opposition members, in that order, with equal time allocated to each.

3.3 Public hearing – Planning and Public Spaces (Scully)

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 Paul Scully MP, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces was admitted and examined.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Ms Kiersten Fishburn, Secretary, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
- Ms Monica Gibson, Deputy Secretary, Planning, Land Use Strategy, Housing and Infrastructure, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
- Mr David Gainsford, Deputy Secretary, Development Assessments and Sustainability, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
- Ms Melanie Hawyes, Deputy Secretary, Crown Lands and Public Spaces, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
- Mr James Hebron, Acting Chief Operating Officer, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
- Mr Mal Lanyon APM, Acting Chief Executive Officer, NSW Reconstruction Authority
- Mr Andrew Graham, Chief Financial and Operating Officer, NSW Reconstruction Authority
- Ms Amanda Leck, Head, Adaptation, Mitigation and Reconstruction Group, NSW Reconstruction Authority
- Ms Joanna Quilty, Head, Preparedness and Recovery Group, NSW Reconstruction Authority
- Mr Alex Wendler, Chief Executive Officer, Landcom.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio of Planning and Public Spaces open for examination.

Ms Munro tabled the following document:

- NSW Government Disclosure summary, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, for the period 1 April to 30 June 2024.

Ms Higginson left the meeting.

In the absence of the Chair, the Deputy Chair took the Chair for the purpose of the meeting.

Ms Munro tabled the following document:

- Client list of lobbying firm IPPA Trust.

Ms Higginson re-joined the meeting and took the Chair.

Mr Ruddick left the meeting.

Ms Higginson left the meeting.

In the absence of the Chair and the Deputy Chair, the Acting Chair took the Chair for the purpose of the meeting.

Ms Higginson re-joined the meeting and took the Chair.

The Minister withdrew at 12.48 pm.

Mr Wendler withdrew at 3.31 pm.

Ms Higginson left the meeting.

In the absence of the Chair and the Deputy Chair, the Acting Chair took the Chair for the purpose of the meeting.

Ms Higginson re-joined the meeting and took the Chair.

Ms Munro tabled the following document:

- Media Release, City of Ryde ‘Council seeks collaboration over Macquarie Park Plans’, dated 29 August 2024.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 5.18 pm. The public and the media withdrew.

3.4 Tabled documents

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Farlow: That the committee accept and publish the following documents tabled during the public hearing by Ms Munro:

- NSW Government Disclosure summary, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, for the period 1 April to 30 June 2024
- Client list of lobbying firm IPPA Trust
- Media Release, City of Ryde ‘Council seeks collaboration over Macquarie Park Plans’, dated 29 August 2024.

4. Tabled document from Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage hearing (Sharpe), 29 August 2024

Mr Farlow moved: That the committee accept and publish the following document tabled by Mr Fang during the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage hearing (Sharpe) held on 29 August 2024:

- Sample asbestos weights in public areas.

Question put.

The committee divided.

Ayes: Mr Farlow, Ms Munro

Noes: Mr Buttigieg, Mr D’Adam, Ms Higginson, Mr Primrose

Question resolved in the negative.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5:20 pm, until Thursday 12 September 2024, Room 814, Parliament House, Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Biodiversity Offsets Scheme) Bill 2024 (public hearing).

Jessie Halligan

Committee Clerk

Draft minutes no. 35

Thursday 12 September 2024

Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment

Room 814, Parliament House, Sydney at 8.45 am

1. Members present

Ms Higginson, *Chair*

Mr Ruddick, *Deputy Chair* (from 9.16 am until 12.48 pm)

Mr Buttigieg (via videoconference until 8.50 am)

Mr Fang (substituting for Mrs Mitchell until 8.51 am)

Mr Lawrence (substituting for Mr Primrose for the duration of the inquiry into the Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Biodiversity Offsets Scheme) Bill 2024)

Mrs Mitchell (substituting for Mr Farlow for the duration of the inquiry into the Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Biodiversity Offsets Scheme) Bill 2024) (via videoconference from 10.19 am)

Ms Munro

Ms Suvaal (substituting for Mr D'Adam for the duration of the inquiry into the Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Biodiversity Offsets Scheme) Bill 2024) (via videoconference)

2. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 16 August 2024 – Email from the Opposition Whip's Office to the secretariat advising that the Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC will substitute for the Hon Scott Farlow MLC for the duration of the inquiry into the Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Biodiversity Offsets Scheme) Bill 2024
- 21 August 2024 – Email from the Government Whip's Office to the secretariat advising that the Hon Stephen Lawrence MLC will substitute for the Hon Peter Primrose MLC for the duration of the inquiry into the Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Biodiversity Offsets Scheme) Bill 2024
- 27 August 2024 – Email from Mr Gary Fry, Secretariat, Country Mayors Association of NSW to the secretariat in response to the stakeholder invitation for submission to the inquiry into the Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Biodiversity Offsets Scheme) Bill 2024, encouraging the committee to undertake hearings in regional New South Wales, in the north, south and west of the State
- 3 September 2024 – Email from the Government Whip's Office to the secretariat advising that the Hon Emily Suvaal MLC will substitute for the Hon Anthony D'Adam MLC for the duration of the inquiry into the Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Biodiversity Offsets Scheme) Bill 2024
- 3 September 2024 – Email from Ms Claire Doherty, Policy Director, NSW Minerals Council to the secretariat declining to attend 12 September 2024 hearing for the inquiry into the Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Biodiversity Offsets Scheme) Bill 2024 and encouraging the committee to hold a further public hearing at a later date
- 3 September 2024 – Email from Ms Tessa Faucheur, NSW/ACT State Manager, Planning Institute Australia, to the secretariat requesting to appear alongside an organisation that is better aligned with Planning Institute Australia rather than Urban Taskforce Australia for the hearing on 12 September 2024 for the inquiry into the Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Biodiversity Offsets Scheme) Bill 2024
- 5 September 2024 – Email from Georgina Woods, Head of Research and Investigations, Lock the Gate Alliance, to the secretariat declining to attend 12 September 2024 hearing for the inquiry into the Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Biodiversity Offsets Scheme) Bill 2024
- 6 September 2024 – Email from Sirena Beveridge, Heritage NSW, to the secretariat declining to attend 12 September 2024 hearing for the inquiry into the Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Biodiversity Offsets Scheme) Bill 2024
- 9 September 2024 – Email from the Opposition Whip's Office to the secretariat advising that the Hon Wes Fang MLC will substitute for the Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC between the times of 9.00 am and 10.00 am and 2.00 pm and 3.00 pm for the hearing for the inquiry into the Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Biodiversity Offsets Scheme) Bill 2024 on Thursday 12 September 2024.

3. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025

3.1 Tabled document – Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage hearing (Sharpe), 29 August 2024

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Fang: That the following document, tabled by Mr Fang during the Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage hearing (Sharpe) held on 29 August 2024 remain confidential:

- Sample asbestos weights in public areas.

4. Inquiry into the Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Biodiversity Offsets Scheme) Bill 2024

4.1 Public submissions

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Lawrence: That the committee authorise the publication of submission nos. 1-12, 14-21, 23-46.

4.2 Partially confidential submissions

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Lawrence: That the committee authorise the publication of submission no. 13 with the exception of identifying and/or sensitive information which are to remain confidential, as per the request of the author.

4.3 Confidential submissions

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Lawrence: That the committee keep submission no. 22 confidential, as per the request of the author.

4.4 Timeframe for answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Fang:

- That members provide any supplementary questions to the secretariat within 24 hours of receiving the transcript of evidence for today's hearing
- That witnesses be required to provide answers to questions on notice/supplementary questions within 3 business days.

4.5 Distribution of Chair's draft report

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Lawrence: That members be provided with a copy of the Chair's draft report in less than 7 calendar days before the scheduled report deliberative date.

4.6 Further inquiry activities

The committee noted that agreed via email to hold a further half day hearing in the afternoon on Friday 20 September 2024.

4.7 Public hearing

Sequence of questions

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Lawrence: That the allocation of questions to be asked at the hearing be left in the hands of the Chair.

Witnesses, the media and the public were admitted.

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

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Mr Adam Muir, Nature Positive Policy Manager, World Wildlife Fund *via videoconference*
- Mr Gary Dunnett, CEO, National Parks Association of NSW
- Mr Saul Deane, Urban Sustainability Campaigner, Total Environment Centre.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Mr Andrew Davies, Landowner, Landholder Biodiversity Interest Group *via videoconference*
- Mrs Louise Davies, Landowner, Landholder Biodiversity Interest Group *via videoconference*
- Mr Greg Steenbeeke, Director, Henribark Pty Ltd.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Mr John Brockhoff, National Policy Director, Planning Institute of Australia

- Mr Darren Holloway, NSW Division Committee Member, Planning Institute of Australia *via videoconference*

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Ms Rachel Walmsley, Head of Policy & Reform, Environmental Defenders Office
- Ms Cerin Loane, Special Counsel – Nature, Environmental Defenders Office
- Ms Jacquelyn Johnson, Executive Officer, Nature Conservation Council of NSW
- Mr Jaden Harris, Advocacy Manager, Nature Conservation Council of NSW
- Dr Megan Kessler, Nature Campaigner, Humane Society International
- Ms Meg Lamb, Animal Protection Campaigner – Law & Policy, Humane Society International.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Mr Stephen Hynd, Executive Director, NSW Aboriginal Land Council
- Mr Raymond Kelly, Councillor and Chairperson, NSW Aboriginal Land Council.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Mr David Reynolds, Chief Executive, Local Government NSW
- Ms Susy Cenedese, Strategy Manager, Environment, Local Government NSW
- Ms Carys Parkinson, Senior Policy Officer, Environment, Local Government NSW
- Cr Craig Davies, Mayor, Narromine Shire Council, Country Mayors Association of NSW *via videoconference*.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 1.00 pm. The public and the media withdrew.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 1.01 pm until Friday 20 September 2024, Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney – second public hearing for the inquiry into Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Biodiversity Offsets Scheme) Bill 2024.

Alice Wood

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 41

Monday 3 March 2025

Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, 9.00 am

1. Members present

Ms Higginson, *Chair*

Mr Ruddick, *Deputy Chair* (from 9.19 am until 3.17 pm)

Ms Boyd (participating from 4.18 pm until 5.03 pm)

Mr Buttigieg (until 1.00 pm, and from 3.57 pm)
Dr Cohn (participating from 11.34 am until 1.00 pm)
Mr D'Adam (until 1.00 pm, and from 2.57 pm until 3.59 pm)
Mr Fang (participating)
Mrs Mihailuk (participating from 11.15 am until 1.00 pm)
Mrs Overall (substituting for Ms Munro)
Mr Primrose (until 3.00 pm)
Mrs Ward (substituting for Mr Farlow until 10.27 am, and from 11.15 am)

2. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Ward: That draft minutes no. 33 be confirmed.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr D'Adam: That draft minutes no. 34 be confirmed.

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received:

- 31 January 2025 – Letter from the Hon Penny Sharpe MLC, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, advising that due to a delay in finalising the arrangements for some witnesses, the Government will be unable to provide confirmation of witnesses to the secretariat until 5.00 pm Monday 3 February 2025
- 3 February 2025 – Emails from Ms Jananie Janarthana, Advisor – Parliament and Caucus, Office of Hon Penny Sharpe MLC, requesting amendments to the witness list for the Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Heritage additional hearing on 3 March 2025, and providing reasons for the proposed amendments
- 30 January 2025 and 4 February 2025 – Emails from Ms Natalie Camilleri, Principal Departmental Liaison Officer, Office of the Hon Paul Scully MP, requesting amendments to the witness list for the Planning and Public Spaces additional hearing on 3 March 2025, and providing reasons for the proposed amendments
- 17 February 2025 - Email from Ms Jananie Janarthana, Advisor – Parliament and Caucus, Office of Hon Penny Sharpe MLC, confirming the attendance of witnesses requested by the committee.

Sent:

- 8 October 2024 – Letter to Mr Jim Beyer, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Regis Resources Ltd, responding to concerns he raised about statements made by Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC at the Portfolio Committee No. 7 Budget Estimates hearing (Sharpe) on 29 August 2024
- 8 October 2024 – Letter to Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC, regarding her response to concerns raised by Regis Resources Ltd about statements made at the Portfolio Committee No. 7 Budget Estimates hearing (Sharpe) on 29 August 2024
- 20 December 2024 – Email to Hon Penny Sharpe MLC, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage, inviting her to appear at the Budget Estimates additional hearing on 3 March 2025, and attaching the witness list agreed to by the committee
- 20 December 2024 – Email to Hon Paul Scully MP, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, inviting him to appear at the Budget Estimates additional hearing on 4 March 2025, and attaching the witness list agreed to by the committee.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025

4.1 Answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions

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 Penny Sharpe MLC, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment and Minister for Heritage, received 26 September 2024
- answers to questions on notice from Hon Paul Scully MP, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, received 27 September 2024
- answers to supplementary questions from Hon Paul Scully MP, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, received 30 September 2024.

4.2 Clarification of evidence

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Primrose: That the letter from Ms Amanda Leck, Head, Adaptation, Mitigation and Reconstruction, NSW Reconstruction Authority dated 12 September 2024 seeking to clarify her evidence given at the committee's Budget Estimates 2024-2025 hearing, 30 August 2024 (Scully) be published and her evidence clarified by inserting an explanatory footnote into the transcript of evidence.

4.3 Resolution for additional hearings

The committee noted the resolution of the House on 21 November 2024 to conduct additional hearings for the inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025.

4.4 Order for examination of portfolios

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 resolution each portfolio, except The Legislature, is to 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.

4.5 Sequence of questions

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 resolution, unless the committee decides otherwise, the sequence of questions to be asked at the hearing for the portfolios of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Heritage is to alternate between *opposition and crossbench members, in that order*, with equal time allocated to each.

4.6 Witness lists

The committee noted that it agreed via email on 17 December 2024 to the following approach to arranging the additional round of Budget Estimates 2024-2025 hearings in February/March 2025:

- arrangements for the additional hearings be made over email in the first instance, rather than holding a meeting, unless a meeting is required to resolve any disagreement
- the confirmed witness lists from the initial round in August/September 2024 and, if applicable, supplementary round of hearings in December 2024, be the proposed witness lists for the additional round of hearings in February/March 2025
- committee members be given 48 hours 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 Friday 31 January 2025.

4.7 Public hearing – Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage (Sharpe)

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 Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage open for examination.

The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment and Minister for Heritage was admitted and examined.

The following witnesses were examined on their former oath:

- Mr Anthony Lean, Secretary, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- Mr Tony Chappel, Chief Executive Officer, NSW Environment Protection Authority.

Minister Sharpe tendered the following document:

- photo set labelled Wetland Bog (near Tin Mines Hut) consisting of two images, the first dated 2020 and the second marked '2024 (after horse control)'.

The Minister withdrew at 12.50 pm.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined (2.00 pm):

- Dr Louisa Mamouney, Acting Deputy Secretary, Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- Ms Elizabeth Owers, Acting Executive Director, Heritage NSW, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- Ms Hannah McCaughey, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Energy Corporation of NSW
- Ms Naomi Stephens, Acting Deputy Secretary, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- Ms Alison Pepper, Acting Deputy Secretary, Strategic Policy, Science and Engagement, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- Ms Sharon Molloy, Executive Director, Nature and Natural Capital Strategy, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- Ms Trish Harrup, Executive Director, Conservation and Aboriginal Partnerships, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- Mr Ash Albury, Executive Director, Planning and Communities, Energy Corporation of NSW.

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

- Mr Stephen Beaman, Executive Director, Regulatory Practice and Services, NSW Environment Protection Authority
- Dr Erin Giuliani, Chief Executive Officer, Biodiversity Conservation Trust
- Ms Kim Curtain, Deputy Secretary, Energy, Climate Change and Sustainability, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- Mr Liam Ryan, Advising Executive Director, Energy, Climate Change and Sustainability, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- Mr Mark Westbrook, Chief Project Officer, Energy Corporation of NSW.

The public hearing concluded at 5.21 pm.

The public and media withdrew.

4.8 Tendered documents

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Ward: That the committee accept and publish the following images tendered by Minister Sharpe, subject to the secretariat writing to the Minister's Office to confirm the provenance of the images and inserting this information alongside the images:

- photo set labelled Wetland Bog (near Tin Mines Hut) consisting of two images, the first dated 2020 and the second marked '2024 (after horse control)'.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5.25 pm, until 9.00 am, Tuesday 4 March 2025, Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Budget Estimates 2024-2025 – Planning and Public Spaces.

Anthony Hanna
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 42

Tuesday 4 March 2025

Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, 9.01 am

1. Members present

Ms Higginson, *Chair*

Mr Ruddick, *Deputy Chair*, (from 9.10 am until 12.49 pm)

Dr Cohn (participating from 11.30 am until 11.49 am)

Mr D'Adam (until 1.00 pm, and from 3.00 pm until 4.01 pm)

Ms Faehrmann (participating from 12.05 pm until 12.40 pm)

Mr Farlow

Mr Lawrence (substituting for Mr Primrose until 3.03pm)

Ms Munro

Mr Murphy (substituting for Mr Buttigieg until 1.00 pm, and from 3.59 pm until 4.54 pm)

2. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025

2.1 Correspondence

The committee noted the following item of correspondence received:

Received:

- 4 March 2025 – Email from Gino Mandarino, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Hon Paul Scully MP to the Chair advising that Mr Josh French, Chief Executive, Greater Sydney Parklands is unable to attend the additional Budget Estimates hearing for the portfolio of Planning and Public Spaces on 4 March 2025.

2.2 Order for examination of portfolios

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 resolution each portfolio, except The Legislature is to 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.

2.3 Sequence of questions

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 resolution, unless the committee decides otherwise, the sequence of questions to be asked at the hearing for the portfolios of Planning and Public Spaces is to alternate between *opposition and crossbench members, in that order*, with equal time allocated to each.

2.4 Public hearing – Planning and Public Spaces

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 Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio of Planning and Public Spaces open for examination.

The Hon Paul Scully MP, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces was admitted and examined.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Mr Christopher Martin, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
- Mr Clay Preshaw, Executive Director, Energy, Resources and Industry, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

The following witnesses were examined on their former oath:

- Ms Kiersten Fishburn, Secretary, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

: -

- Ms Monica Gibson, Deputy Secretary, Planning, Land Use Strategy, Housing and Infrastructure, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
- Mr David Gainsford, Deputy Secretary, Development Assessment and Sustainability, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
- Mr Mal Lanyon APM, Acting Chief Executive Officer, NSW Reconstruction Authority
- Mr Andrew Graham, Chief Financial and Operating Officer, NSW Reconstruction Authority
- Ms Amanda Leck, Head, Adaption, Mitigation and Reconstruction Group, NSW Reconstruction Authority
- Ms Joanna Quilty, Head, Preparedness and Recovery Group, NSW Reconstruction Authority
- Mr Alex Wendler, Chief Executive Officer, Landcom.

Mr Graham, Ms Leck and Ms Quilty withdrew at 10.46 am.

The Minister withdrew at 12.49 pm.

Mr Lanyon and Mr Wendler withdrew at 3.30 pm.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 4.54 pm.

The public and media withdrew.

3. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 4.54 pm, *Sine die*.

Sarah Newlands

Committee Clerk

Draft minutes no. 43

Monday 23 June 2025

Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment

McKell Room, Parliament House, Sydney, 2.01 pm

1. Members present

Ms Higginson, *Chair*

Mr Ruddick, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Buttigieg

Mr D'Adam

Mr Farlow

Ms Munro

Mr Primrose

2. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Ruddick: That draft minutes nos. 41 and 42 be confirmed.

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received:

- 27 March 2025 – Letter from Hon Penny Sharpe MLC, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, requesting a transcript clarification to her evidence from the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Heritage (Sharpe) additional hearing on 3 March 2025

- 27 March 2025 – Letter from Mr Anthony Lean, Secretary, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, requesting a transcript clarification to his evidence from the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Heritage (Sharpe) additional hearing on 3 March 2025
- 28 March 2025 – Letter from Mr Steve Beaman PSM, Executive Director, Regulatory Practice and Services, Environment Protection Authority, requesting transcript clarifications to his evidence from the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Heritage (Sharpe) additional hearing on 3 March 2025
- 7 April 2025 – Email from Ms Emma Richardson, Foreshore For All, regarding an answer to a question taken on notice by Ms Kiersten Fishburn, Secretary, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure at the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Planning and Public Spaces (Scully) additional hearing on 4 March 2025
- 2 May 2025 – Letter from Ms Kiersten Fishburn, Secretary, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, providing further information regarding her answer to a question taken on notice at the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Planning and Public Spaces (Scully) additional hearing on 4 March 2025.

Sent:

- 24 April 2025 – Letter from the Chair to Ms Kiersten Fishburn, Secretary, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure seeking clarification regarding her answer to a question taken on notice at the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Planning and Public Spaces (Scully) additional hearing on 4 March 2025.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025

4.1 Correspondence – answer to question on notice by Ms Kiersten Fishburn

The committee noted:

- that it agreed via email on 15 April 2025 that the Chair to write to Ms Kiersten Fishburn, Secretary, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure seeking clarification about the points raised by Ms Emma Richardson, Foreshore For All in her email 7 April 2025 regarding an answer to a question taken on notice by Ms Fishburn
- that it agreed via email on 8 May 2025 to publish the response received from Ms Fishburn on 2 May 2025 providing further information about her answer to the question taken on notice.

4.2 Answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions

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 Penny Sharpe MLC, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage, received 28 March 2025
- answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from Hon Paul Scully MP, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, received 31 March 2025.

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

- keep supplementary question 19 confidential
- advise the Hon Penny Sharpe MLC that an answer to this question is not required.

4.3 Transcript clarifications

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Munro: That the committee authorise:

- the publication of correspondence from Hon Penny Sharpe MLC, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage to the committee dated 27 March 2025 providing transcript clarifications, and insertion of a footnote into the transcript from the 3 March 2025 (Sharpe) hearing clarifying the Minister's evidence

- the publication of correspondence from Mr Anthony Lean, Secretary, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water to the committee dated 27 March 2025 providing a transcript clarification, and the insertion of a footnote into the transcript from the 3 March 2025 (Sharpe) hearing clarifying Mr Lean's evidence
- the publication of correspondence from Mr Steve Beaman PSM, Executive Director, Regulatory Practice and Services, Environment Protection Authority to the committee received 28 March 2025 providing a transcript clarification, and the insertion of a footnote into the transcript from the 3 March 2025 (Sharpe) hearing clarifying Mr Beaman's evidence.

4.4 Consideration of Chair's draft report

The Chair submitted the Chair's draft report entitled 'Budget Estimates 2024-2025', which, having been previously circulated, was taken as being read.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr D'Adam: That paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 be amended by inserting '/ Wollumbin' after all references to 'Mount Warning'.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Munro: 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 relating to the inquiry be published by the committee, except for those documents kept confidential by resolution of the committee;

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

The committee secretariat be authorised to update any committee comments where necessary to reflect changes to recommendations or new recommendations resolved by the committee;

Dissenting statements be provided to the secretariat within 24 hours after receipt of the draft minutes of the meeting;

The report be tabled at 11.00 am on Friday 27 June 2025;

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 2.05 pm, *Sine die*.

David Rodwell
Committee Clerk

