



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 4

Budget Estimates 2024-2025

Report 61

June 2025

4



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Portfolio Committee No. 4 - Regional NSW

Budget Estimates 2024-2025

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**New South Wales. Parliament. Legislative Council. Portfolio Committee No. 4 - Regional NSW.
Report no. 61.**

Budget Estimates 2024-2025

"June 2025"

Chair: Hon Mark Banasiak MLC



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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

Hon Mark Banasiak MLC	Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party	<i>Chair</i>
Hon Emma Hurst MLC	Animal Justice Party	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
Hon Greg Donnelly MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Hon Aileen MacDonald MLC	Liberal Party	
Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC	The Nationals	
Hon Cameron Murphy MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Hon Peter Primrose MLC	Australian Labor Party	

Non-substantive members who attended the hearings

Hon Scott Barrett MLC	The Nationals
Dr Amanda Cohn MLC	The Greens
Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC	The Greens
Hon Wes Fang MLC	The Nationals
Hon Scott Farlow MLC	Liberal Party
Hon Sam Farraway MLC	The Nationals
Ms Sue Higginson MLC	The Greens
Hon Dr Sarah Kaine MLC	Australian Labor Party
Hon Mark Latham MLC	Independent
Hon Stephen Lawrence MLC	Australian Labor Party
Hon Tania Mihailuk MLC	Independent
Hon Jacqui Munro MLC	Liberal Party
Hon Nichole Overall MLC	The Nationals
Hon John Ruddick MLC	Libertarian Party

Contact details

Website	https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/
Email	porfoliocommittee4@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Telephone	(02) 9230 3081

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.

At the time of the establishment of the inquiry, Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Regional NSW was responsible for the scrutiny of the following portfolio area:

- Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales
- Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport.⁴

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

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank the ministers and their officers who assisted the committee during this important inquiry. I am grateful to my fellow committee members and the secretariat staff for their contributions to the inquiry process.

Hon Mark Banasiak MLC
Committee Chair

⁴ As a result of changes to the Cabinet and the Ministry of the NSW Government, the portfolio for Small Business moved to Portfolio Committee No. 8 – Customer Service and the portfolio of Jobs and Tourism moved to Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Regional NSW on 19 March 2025.

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.⁵
- 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 2024.⁶
- 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 2025.⁷
- 1.4 Three additional hearings were rescheduled due to the impact of Cyclone Alfred and the unavailability of ministers and other witnesses.⁸
- 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:
 - 27 August 2024 and 25 February 2025: Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales
 - 28 August 2024 and 26 February 2025: Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport.

⁵ Minutes, NSW Legislative Council, 20 June 2024, pp 1295-1298.

⁶ Minutes, NSW Legislative Council, 21 November 2023, pp 670-671; Minutes, NSW Legislative Council, 20 June 2024, pp 1295-1298.

⁷ Minutes, NSW Legislative Council, 21 November 2024, pp 1901-1904.

⁸ 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.

Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales

2.1 A hearing examining the portfolios of Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales was held on Tuesday 27 August 2024. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of these portfolios:

- the role of the Agricultural Commissioner
- the recruitment process and subsequent appointment of the Biosecurity Commissioner
- the Forestry Industry Action Plan and long-term sustainability of the forestry industry
- the use of animals in research and experimentation
- cultural fishing and over-harvesting of abalone on the South Coast, marine conservation and threatened species management
- appointments and promotions of staff within the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

2.2 An additional hearing was held on Tuesday 25 February 2025 and the following issues were raised:

- the decision to discontinue the development of the Dubbo Sports Hub project
- the operation of Fisheries NSW, including staff vacancies, allocated funding and the exercise of its compliance functions
- staffing issues across the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, including vacancies and People Matter Employee Survey results
- the NSW Shark Management Strategy, including shark net policies
- cattle tick management programs
- the funding of regional media
- the operations of Forestry Corporation NSW, including its reporting on biomaterials, its clear felling operations, and its management of pressures on the timber industry.

Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport

2.3 A hearing examining the portfolios of Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport was held on Wednesday 28 August 2024. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of these portfolios:

- the operation and performance of the Office of Sport and leasing of shooting facilities

- the decline of volunteers for local sporting events and attracting more community groups to participate
- the use of land which is subject to Aboriginal land claims and progress of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure land acquisition review
- status and completion of the land audit process (the government's property audit for housing) including the development of government land and affordable housing
- Aboriginal land claims on NSW Crown Land, including the number of claims and measures taken to resolve claims
- Cemeteries and Crematoria NSW revenue from interment levies and expenditure
- the status of various sporting facility projects and upgrades across Sydney
- the government's pursuit of potential NFL games held in Sydney
- the status of ongoing Service NSW Business Bureau operations
- the Multicultural NSW Advisory Board appointments process
- Active Kids vouchers
- the status of Coffs Harbour Jetty Precinct Revitalisation project
- the Small Business Commissioner's role and operations including assistance to small business and initiatives to address the skills shortage
- the impact of property rezonings on property valuations
- Multicultural NSW operations – budgeting and various initiatives including the Countering Violent Extremism Program, Remove Hate from the Debate, and the NSW Settlement Strategy.

2.4 An additional hearing was held on Wednesday 26 February 2025 and the following issues were raised:

- the status of decisions concerning Crown land management, Racing NSW, Wentworth Park and Queanbeyan Racing Club – criteria for appointment and conflicts of interests
- the impact on public access to Tilligerry Creek, following decision to return 10.6-hectare plot of land to the Aboriginal community in Port Stephens
- repurposing Moore Park Golf Course, including consultation and proposal from Golf NSW and Moore Park Golf Club
- Cemeteries and Crematoria NSW staffing, revenue, and sites under consideration as potential cemetery spaces, including Carnarvon Golf Course
- update on Dubbo Sports Hub, including impact of tripartisan funding and responsibility, and the variation request from Police Citizen Youth Club
- political donations from local football clubs and allocation of government grants
- the impact of rezoning Parramatta North

- the status of Coffs Harbour Jetty Precinct Revitalisation project
- privacy concerns and recommendations from the Joint Standing Committee on the Office of the Valuer General
- challenges faced by small businesses, including insolvencies, impact of red tape and regulations, and the availability of toll relief and energy relief
- the status of the Sydney Fish Markets, including completion date, variations and total cost of variations
- the free multicultural water safety day in Wollongong
- the Multilingual NSW Academy
- engagement with the Faith Affairs Council – consultation regarding proposed legislation, and briefings with New South Wales Police in relation to recent antisemitic and Islamophobic attacks.

Appendix 1 Witnesses at hearings

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
Tuesday 27 August 2024 Jubilee Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Tara Moriarty MLC	Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales
	Mr Steve Orr	Secretary, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
	Mr James Bolton	Deputy Secretary, Regional Development & Delivery, Chief Executive Regional Growth NSW Development Corporation, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
	Ms Rachel Connell	Deputy Secretary, Agriculture and Biosecurity, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
	Mr Sean Sloan	Deputy Secretary, Fisheries and Forestry, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
	Mr Rob Kelly	Executive Director, Regional Delivery, Local Land Services, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
	Dr Adam Tyndall	Executive Director, Strategy, Media and Ministerial Services, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
	Dr Lisa Szabo	Acting Executive Director, Biosecurity and Food Safety, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
	Mr David McPherson	Executive Director, Forestry and Land Reform, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
	Dr Kim Filmer	Chief Animal Welfare Officer, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
	Mr Anshul Chaudhary	Chief Executive Officer, Forestry Corporation of NSW
	Ms Kate Lorimer-Ward	Chief Executive Officer, Local Land Services, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
	Mr Peter Turnell	Acting Executive Director, Fisheries, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
	Dr Jacqueline Tracey (<i>via videoconference</i>)	Executive Director Policy, Local Land Services, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
	Ms Harriet Whyte	Executive Director, Regional Programs and Partnerships, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
	Ms Kate Meagher	Deputy Secretary, Community Engagement Group, Premier's Department
Wednesday 28 August 2024 Jubilee Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Stephen Kamper MP	Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport
	Ms Kiersten Fishburn	Secretary, Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI)
	Ms Melanie Hawyes	Deputy Secretary, Crown Lands and Public Spaces, DPHI
	Mr Leon Walker	Deputy Secretary, Property and Development NSW (PDNSW)
	Ms Jennifer Hickey	Chief Executive Officer, Cemeteries and Crematoria NSW (CCNSW)
	Mr Stewart McLachlan	Chief Executive Officer, Valuation NSW
	Mr Tom Gellibrand	Chief Executive, Infrastructure NSW

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
	Mr Joseph La Posta	Chief Executive Officer, Multicultural NSW
	Ms Karen Jones	Chief Executive, Office of Sport
	Ms Kerrie Mather	Chief Executive Officer, Venues NSW
	Mr Graeme Head AO	Secretary, Department of Customer Service (DCS)
	Mr Greg Wells	Chief Executive Officer, Service NSW, Department of Customer Service
	Ms Cassandra Gibbens	Executive Director, Department of Customer Service
	Mr Chris Lamont	Small Business Commissioner, Small Business Commission
Tuesday 25 February 2025 Jubilee Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Tara Moriarty MLC	Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales
	Mr Steve Orr	Secretary, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
	Mr James Bolton	Deputy Secretary, Regional Development & Delivery, Chief Executive, Regional Growth NSW Development Corporation, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
	Ms Rachel Connell	Deputy Secretary, Agriculture and Biosecurity, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
	Mr Sean Sloan	Deputy Secretary, Fisheries and Forestry, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
	Mr Anshul Chaudhary	Chief Executive Officer, Forestry Corporation of NSW
	Ms Kate Lorimer-Ward	Chief Executive Officer, Local Land Services, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
	Mr Rob Kelly	Executive Director, Regional Delivery, Local Land Services, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
	Dr Lisa Szabo	Acting Executive Director, Biosecurity and Food Safety, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
	Dr Kim Filmer	Chief Animal Welfare Officer, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
	Ms Kate Meagher	Deputy Secretary, Community Engagement Group, Premier's Department
	Dr Jacqueline Tracey (<i>via videoconference</i>)	Executive Director, Policy, Local Land Services, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
	Ms Harriet Whyte	Executive Director, Regional Programs and Partnerships, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
Wednesday 26 February 2025 Jubilee Room Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Stephen Kamper MP	Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport
	Ms Kiersten Fishburn	Secretary, Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI)
	Mr Leon Walker	Deputy Secretary, Property and Development NSW (PDNSW)
	Ms Jennifer Hickey	Chief Executive Officer, Cemeteries and Crematoria NSW (CCNSW)
	Mr Stewart McLachlan	Chief Executive Officer, Valuation NSW
	Mr Tom Gellibrand	Chief Executive, Infrastructure NSW
	Mr Joseph La Posta	Chief Executive Officer, Multicultural NSW

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
	Mr Adam Berry	Acting Chief Executive, Office of Sport
	Ms Kerrie Mather	Chief Executive Officer, Venues NSW
	Mr Graeme Head AO	Secretary, Department of Customer Service (DCS)
	Mr Greg Wells	Chief Executive Officer, Service NSW, Department of Customer Service
	Ms Cassandra Gibbens	Executive Director, Department of Customer Service
	Mr Mark Frost	Acting NSW Small Business Commissioner, NSW Small Business Commission

Appendix 2 Minutes

Minutes no. 21

Tuesday 16 July 2024

Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Regional NSW

Room 1043, Parliament House, Sydney at 4.31 pm

1. Members present

Mr Banasiak, *Chair*

Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Donnelly

Mrs Mitchell

Mr Murphy (via videoconference)

Mr Primrose

2. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Donnelly: That draft minutes no. 18 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. 4 hearings.

Date	Portfolio
Tuesday 27 August 2024	Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales
Wednesday 28 August 2024	Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport

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:

- Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales
- Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport.

3.3 Witness requests

The committee noted a list of witnesses who appeared at initial hearings for Budget Estimates 2023-2024 for the portfolios relevant to Portfolio Committee No. 4. It further noted that some of the list may be

affected by a recent departmental re-structure under which the Department of Regional NSW was re-named the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales

Witness	
Ms Rebecca Fox	Secretary, Department of Regional NSW
Mr Scott Hansen	Director General, Department of Primary Industries (DPI)
Mr Steve Orr	CEO, Local Land Services (LLS)
Mr Jonathan Wheaton	A/ Deputy Secretary, Regional Development and Programs
Mr James Bolton	Deputy Secretary, Regional Precincts Group
Mr Anshul Chaudery	CEO, Forestry Corporation
Mr Sean Sloan	Deputy Director General, DPI Fisheries
Dr John Tracey	Deputy Director General, DPI Biosecurity and Food Safety
Ms Kim Filmer	Chief Animal Welfare Officer, DPI
Mr David McPherson	Deputy Director General, DPI Forestry and Land Reform
Mr Rob Kelly	Executive Director, LLS Regional Delivery
Dr Jacqueline Tracey	Executive Director Policy, LLS Policy
Mr Drew Varum	Executive Director, NSW Public Works
Mr Daniel Brown	Executive Director, Soil Conservation Service

Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport

Witness	
Ms Kiersten Fishburn	Secretary, Department of Planning and Environment (DPE)
Ms Melanie Hawyes	Deputy Secretary, Crown Lands and Public Spaces
Mr Leon Walker	Deputy Secretary, Property and Development NSW (PDNSW)
Ms Jennifer Hickey	Chief Executive Officer, Cemeteries and Crematoria NSW (CCNSW)
Mr Stewart McLachlan	Chief Executive Officer, Valuation NSW
Ms Janine Lonergan	Executive Director, Corporate Services, Infrastructure NSW
Mr Tom Gellibrand	Chief Executive, Infrastructure NSW
Mr Joseph La Posta	Chief Executive Officer, Multicultural NSW
Ms Karen Jones	Chief Executive, Office of Sport
Ms Kerrie Mather	Chief Executive Officer, Venues NSW
Mr Kevin Thompson	Chief Executive Officer, NSW Institute of Sport
Mr Greg Wells	Chief Executive Officer, Service NSW, Department of Customer Service (DCS)
Ms Cassandra Gibbens	Executive Director, Department of Customer Service (DCS)

Mr Chris Lamont	Small Business Commissioner, Small Business Commission
Ms Emma Hogan	Secretary, Department of Customer Service

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Mitchell: That:

- the secretariat contact the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council requesting updated department organisational charts to assist members to settle on a witness list for initial hearings for Budget Estimates 2024-2025, for the portfolios relevant to Portfolio Committee No. 4 that have been subject to recent departmental restructures
- once the organisational charts have been circulated to the committee, members be given 48 hours to consider the list of witnesses who appeared before portfolio committee no. 4 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 4.33 pm, until Thursday 18 July 2024, Macquarie Room, Parliament House, inquiry into the operation of the approved charitable organisations under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* (public hearing).

Elspeth Dyer
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 24

Tuesday 27 August 2024
Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Regional NSW
Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney, 9.00 am

1. Members present

Mr Banasiak, *Chair* (until 10.00 am, from 10.43 am)
Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair*
Mr Donnelly
Ms Fachrmann (participating) (from 11.17 am until 12.48 pm, from 3.45 pm until 4.28 pm)
Mr Fang (substituting for Mrs MacDonald)
Mr Faraway (substituting for Mrs Mitchell) (until 4.36 pm)
Ms Higginson (participating)
Mr Lawrence (substituting for Mr Primrose)
Mr Murphy

2. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Hurst: That draft minutes no. 21 be confirmed.

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 2 August 2024 – Email from Tina Flakas, office of Hon. Stephen Kamper MP, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism and Minister for Sport providing Minister Kamper's proposed amendments to the witness list for PC4 Budget Estimates hearing for his portfolios, 28 August 2024
- 2 August 2024 – Further email from Tina Flakas, office of Hon. Stephen Kamper MP, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism and Minister for Sport providing further detail about Minister Kamper's proposed amendments to the witness list for PC4 Budget Estimates hearing for his portfolios, 28 August 2024
- 7 August 2024 – Letter from the Hon Sam Faraway MLC, to Chair, requesting that the committee hold hearings in Wellington and Mudgee as part of the inquiry into Renewable Energy Zones
- 9 August 2024 – Email from Jessica Malnersic, office of Hon. Tara Moriarty MLC, Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Western New South Wales providing the Minister's proposed amendments to the witness list for the PC4 Budget Estimates hearing for her portfolios, 27 August 2024
- 12 August 2024 – Email from Phillipa Gately, Office of the Secretary, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) advising that Ms Kiersten Fishburn, Secretary, DPHI seeks leave from Budget Estimates hearing for Minister Kamper's portfolios on 28 August 2024 from 3.20 pm to 4.45 pm
- 15 August 2024 – Email from Jessica Malnersic, office of Hon. Tara Moriarty MLC, Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Western New South Wales providing a further proposed amendment of the Minister to the witness list for the PC4 Budget Estimates hearing for her portfolios, 27 August 2024
- 20 August 2024 – Email from Jessica Malnersic, office of Hon. Tara Moriarty MLC, Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Western New South Wales providing the Minister's further feedback on the witness list for the PC4 Budget Estimates hearing for her portfolios, 27 August 2024.

Sent

- 2 August 2024 – Email to Hon Tara Moriarty MLC, Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Western New South Wales inviting her to appear at PC4 Budget Estimates hearing for the Minister's portfolios and attaching witness list agreed to by the committee
- 2 August 2024 – Email to Hon Stephen Kamper MP, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism and Minister for Sport, inviting him to appear at PC4 Budget Estimates hearings for the Minister's portfolios, 28 August 2024, and attaching witness list agreed to by the committee
- 19 August 2024 – Email to Hon. Tara Moriarty MLC, Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Western New South Wales advising that committee would like to insist on the appearance of Dr Jacqueline Tracey and Ms Harriet Whyte before PC4 Budget Estimates hearing for Minister Moriarty's portfolios, 27 August 2024.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025**4.1 Order of examination of portfolios**

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.

4.2 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 hearing for the portfolios of Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales is to alternate between crossbench and opposition members, in that order, with equal time allocated to each.

4.3 Public hearing - Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales (Moriarty)

Witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The Hon Tara Moriarty MLC, Minister for Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales 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 and examined:

- Mr Steve Orr, Secretary, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Mr James Bolton, Deputy Secretary Regional Development & Delivery, Chief Executive Regional Growth NSW Development Corporation, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Ms Rachel Connell, Deputy Secretary, Agriculture and Biosecurity, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Mr Sean Sloan, Deputy Secretary, Fisheries and Forestry, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Mr Rob Kelly, Executive Director Regional Delivery, Local Land Services, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Dr Adam Tyndall, Executive Director, Strategy, Media and Ministerial Services, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Dr Lisa Szabo, Acting Executive Director, Biosecurity and Food Safety, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Mr David McPherson, Executive Director, Forestry and Land Reform, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Dr Kim Filmer, Chief Animal Welfare Officer, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Mr Anshul Chaudhary, Chief Executive Officer, Forestry Corporation of NSW
- Ms Kate Lorimer-Ward, Chief Executive Officer, Local Land Services, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales open for examination.

Mr Farraway tabled the following documents:

- Media article by James O'Doherty entitled "Border position under scrutiny: Top Not given plum role", undated, together with X (formerly Twitter) posts of the Hon Tara Moriarty MLC, dated 5 August 2023
- LinkedIn experience extraction for Dr Marion Healy PSM, undated.

The Chair left the meeting.

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

Ms Hurst tabled the following document:

- Eight photographs of dogs in captivity.

The Chair re-joined the meeting and took the Chair.

The Minister withdrew at 12.48 pm.

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

- Mr Peter Turnell, Acting Executive Director, Fisheries, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Ms Kate Meagher, Deputy Secretary Community Engagement Group, Premier's Department
- Dr Jacqueline Tracey, Executive Director Policy, Local Land Services, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (via videoconference)
- Ms Harriet Whyte, Executive Director, Regional Programs and Partnerships, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 5.24 pm. The public and the media withdrew.

4.4 Tabled documents

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

- Media article by James O'Doherty entitled "Border position under scrutiny: Top Not given plum role", undated, together with X (formerly Twitter) posts of the Hon Tara Moriarty MLC, dated 5 August 2023, tabled by Mr Farraway
- LinkedIn experience extraction for Dr Marion Healy PSM, undated, tabled by Mr Farraway
- Eight photographs of dogs in captivity, tabled by Ms Hurst.

2. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5.26 pm, until Wednesday 28 August 2024, 9.00 am, Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Budget Estimates 2024-2025 – Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport (public hearing).

Emma Rogerson
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 25

Wednesday 28 August 2024

Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Regional NSW

Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.00 am

1. Members present

Mr Banasiak, *Chair*

Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair* (until 12.51 pm; from 2.06 pm until 3.16 pm; from 4.11 pm)

Dr Cohn (participating) (from 2.00 pm until 2.16 pm)

Mr Donnelly (until 11.00 am, and from 12.24 pm)

Ms Faehrmann (participating) (from 11.57 am until 12.11 pm)

Mr Fang (participating) (from 12.19 pm until 12.51 pm)

Mr Farlow (substituting for Mrs Mitchell)

Ms Higginson (participating) (from 11.19 am until 11.41 am)

Mr Lawrence (substituting for Mr Primrose) (until 12.51 pm; from 3.02 pm)

Mrs MacDonald (participating) (from 9.00 am until 9.01 am, via videoconference)

Ms Munro (substituting for Mrs MacDonald)

Mr Murphy (until 3.30 pm)

Mr Ruddick (participating) (until 10.05 am)

2. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025

2.1 Order of examination of portfolios

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.

2.2 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 hearing for the portfolios of Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport is to alternate between crossbench and opposition members, in that order, with equal time allocated to each.

2.3 Public hearing - Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport (Kamper)

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 Stephen Kamper MP, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, Minister for Sport was admitted and examined.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Ms Kiersten Fishburn, Secretary, Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure
- Ms Melanie Hawyes, Deputy Secretary, Crown Lands and Public Spaces, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
- Mr Leon Walker, Deputy Secretary, Property and Development NSW
- Ms Jennifer Hickey, Chief Executive Officer, Cemeteries and Crematoria NSW (CCNSW)
- Mr Stewart McLachlan, Chief Executive Officer, Valuation NSW
- Mr Tom Gellibrand, Chief Executive, Infrastructure NSW
- Mr Joseph La Posta, Chief Executive Officer, Multicultural NSW
- Ms Karen Jones, Chief Executive, Office of Sport
- Ms Kerrie Mather, Chief Executive Officer, Venues NSW
- Mr Graeme Head AO, Secretary, Department of Customer Service
- Mr Greg Wells, Chief Executive Officer, Service NSW, Department of Customer Service
- Ms Cassandra Gibbens, Executive Director, Department of Customer Service
- Mr Chris Lamont, Small Business Commissioner, Small Business Commission

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport open for examination.

The Minister withdrew at 12.51 pm.

Ms Fishburn withdrew at 3.16 pm.

Ms Jones, Mr Gellibrand, Mr Wells, Mr Head, Ms Gibbens and Ms Mather withdrew at 3.30 pm.

Mr Lamont withdrew at 3.57 pm.

Ms Hickey, Ms Hawyes withdrew at 4.10 pm.

Mr Walker withdrew at 4.20 pm.

Mr McLachlan withdrew at 4.26 pm.

Mr La Posta withdrew at 4.59 pm.

The public hearing concluded at 4.59 pm.

The public and the media withdrew.

3. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5.00 pm, *sine die*.

Daniel Whiteman and David Rodwell

Committee Clerks

Minutes no. 28

Monday 28 October 2024

Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Regional NSW

Room 1254, Parliament House, 2.01 pm

1. Members present

Mr Banasiak, *Chair*

Ms Hurst, Deputy Chair (via videoconference)

Mr Donnelly

Mr Lawrence (substituting for Mr Primrose via videoconference)

Mrs MacDonald (via videoconference)

Mrs Mitchell (via videoconference)

Mr Murphy

2. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Murphy: That draft minutes no. 24 and 25 be confirmed.

3. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025

3.1 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 Tara Moriarty MLC, Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales and Minister for Western New South Wales, received 24 September 2024
- answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from Hon Stephen Kamper MP, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism and Minister for Sport, received 25 September 2024.

3.2 Supplementary hearing

The committee considered Mrs MacDonald's request to hold a supplementary hearing for the portfolios of Agriculture, Regional New South Wales and Western New South Wales (Moriarty).

Mrs MacDonald moved: That:

- a Budget Estimates 2024-25 supplementary hearing for the portfolios of Agriculture, Regional New South Wales and Western New South Wales be held on Wednesday 4 December 2024
- if the Minister is not available on Wednesday 4 December 2024, the Chair propose an alternative date for the supplementary hearing, to be agreed by the committee over email, unless a meeting of the committee is required to resolve any disagreement
- the secretariat write to Hon Tara Moriarty MLC, Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales and Minister for Western New South Wales inviting her to the supplementary hearing
- the following witnesses be invited to accompany the Minister at the supplementary hearing:
 - Mr Steve Orr, Secretary, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

- Mr James Bolton, Deputy Secretary, Regional Development & Delivery, Chief Executive Regional Growth, NSW Development Corporation, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Ms Rachel Connell, Deputy Secretary, Agriculture and Biosecurity, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Mr Sean Sloan, Deputy Secretary, Fisheries and Forestry, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Mr Rob Kelly, Executive Director, Regional Delivery, Local Land Services, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Mr Adam Tyndall, Executive Director, Strategy, Media and Ministerial Services, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Dr Lisa Szabo, Acting Executive Director, Biosecurity and Food Safety, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Mr David McPherson, Executive Director, Forestry and Land Reform, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Dr Kim Filmer, Chief Animal Welfare Officer, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Mr Anshul Chaudhary, Chief Executive Officer, Forestry Corporation of NSW
- Ms Kate Lorimer-Ward, Chief Executive Officer, Local Land Services, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Mr Peter Turnell, Acting Executive Director, Fisheries, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Ms Kate Meagher, Deputy Secretary Community Engagement Group, Premier's Department
- Dr Jacqueline Tracey, Executive Director Policy, Local Land Services, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Ms Harriet Whyte, Executive Director, Regional Programs and Partnerships, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

Question put.

The committee divided.

Ayes: Ms Hurst, Mrs MacDonald, Mrs Mitchell.

Noes: Mr Banasiak, Mr Donnelly, Mr Lawrence, Mr Murphy.

Question resolved in the negative.

4. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 2.11 pm, *sine die*.

Elsbeth Dyer
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 31

Tuesday 25 February 2025
Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Regional NSW
Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.05 am

1. Members present

Mr Banasiak, *Chair*

Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Barrett (substituting for Mrs MacDonald from 9.15 am)

Mr Donnelly (from 9.13 am until 12.47 pm, and from 3.59 pm)

Ms Faehrmann (participating from 11.18 am until 11.34 am)
Mr Fang (substituting for Mrs Mitchell from 9.15 am)
Ms Higginson (participating until 5.20 pm)
Mr Lawrence (substituting for Mr Murphy until 3.11 pm)
Ms Overall (participating from 9.15 am)
Mr Primrose (until 12.47 pm, and from 2.47 pm until 4.14 pm)

2. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Hurst: That draft minutes no. 28 be confirmed.

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 6 January 2025 – Email from Mr Matthew Shaw, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Hon Steve Kamper MP, requesting amendments to the witness list for the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport additional hearing on 26 February 2025
- 16 January 2025 – Email from Mr Ed McDougall, Office of the Hon. Steve Kamper MP, providing reasons for the proposed amendments to the witness list for the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport additional hearing on 26 February 2025
- 29 January 2025 – Email from Ms Jessica Malnersic, Parliamentary Liaison Officer, Office of the Hon Tara Moriarty MLC, requesting amendments to the witness list for the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales additional hearing on 25 February 2025
- 30 January 2025 – Email from Ms Jessica Malnersic, Parliamentary Liaison Officer, Office of the Hon Tara Moriarty MLC, providing reasons for the proposed amendments to the witness list for the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales additional hearing on 25 February 2025
- 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
- 31 January 2025 – Email from Ms Jessica Malnersic, Parliamentary Liaison Officer, Office of the Hon Tara Moriarty MLC providing reasons for the proposed amendments to the witness list for the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales additional hearing on 25 February 2025
- 3 February 2025 – Email from Mr Ed McDougall, Office of the Hon Steve Kamper MP, attaching further amendments to the witness list for the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport hearing on 26 February 2025
- 3 February 2025 – Email from Mr Ed McDougall, Office of the Hon Steve Kamper MP, providing reasons for the proposed amendments to the witness list for the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport additional hearing on 26 February 2025
- 17 February 2025 – Email from Ms Jessica Malnersic, Parliamentary Liaison Officer, Office of the Hon Tara Moriarty MLC, responding to the committee's request that the witnesses the Minister proposed not be required to attend the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales additional hearing on 25 February 2025 appear at the hearing
- 25 February 2025 – Email from Ms Jessica Malnersic, Parliamentary Liaison Officer, Office of the Hon Tara Moriarty MLC, advising that Dr Adam Tyndall, Executive Director, Strategy, Media and Ministerial Services, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, is unavailable for the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales additional hearing on 25 February 2025 due personal circumstances.

Sent

- 20 December 2024 – Email to the Hon Tara Moriarty MLC, Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Western New South Wales, inviting her to appear at the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 additional hearing on 25 February 2025 and attaching the witness list agreed to by the committee
- 20 December 2024 – Email to the Hon Stephen Kamper MP, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism and Minister for Sport, inviting him to appear at the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 additional hearing on 26 February 2025 and attaching the witness list agreed to by the committee
- 13 February 2025 – Email from the secretariat to Ms Jessica Malnersic, Parliamentary Liaison Officer, Office of the Hon Tara Moriarty MLC, advising that the committee has considered the Minister's proposed amendments to the witness list for the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales additional hearing on 25 February 2025 and would like to request that the witnesses the Minister proposed not be required to attend appear at the hearing.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025**4.1 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 2023-2024.

4.2 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.

4.3 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 Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales portfolio is to alternate between *crossbench and opposition members, in that order*, with equal time allocated to each.

4.4 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 initial round of hearings
- responses from Ministers' offices to witness invitations be due by Friday 31 January 2025.

4.5 Public hearing – Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales (Moriarty)

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 Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, and Western New South Wales open for examination.

The Hon Tara Moriarty MLC, Minister for Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales was admitted and examined.

The following witnesses were examined on their former oath:

- Mr Steve Orr, Secretary, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Mr James Bolton, Deputy Secretary, Regional Development & Delivery, Chief Executive, Regional Growth NSW Development Corporation, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Ms Rachel Connell, Deputy Secretary, Agriculture and Biosecurity, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Mr Sean Sloan, Deputy Secretary, Fisheries and Forestry, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Mr Anshul Chaudhary, Chief Executive Officer, Forestry Corporation of NSW
- Ms Kate Lorimer-Ward, Chief Executive Officer, Local Land Services, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

Mr Fang tabled the following documents:

- Document, Diary disclosure summary, Minister for Agriculture for the period of 1 October 2024 to 31 December 2024
- Document, copy of social media post published by Tara Moriarty MLC, discussing a visit to Dunghutti Elders Council, Kempsey NSW, dated 13 October 2024.

The Minister tendered the following document:

- Letter from Michael McMahon, CEO, Dubbo Regional Council, to Casey Grice, Director Western Cluster, NSW Office of Sport, regarding the Dubbo indoor multisport facility and regional sports infrastructure fund grant allocation.

Ms Hurst tabled the following document:

- A collection of images of a social event displaying alcohol near a dolphin at a marine park.

The Minister withdrew at 12.47 pm.

The following witness was affirmed and examined (2.00 pm):

Ms Kate Meagher, Deputy Secretary, Delivery and Engagement Group, Premier's Department

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

- Mr Rob Kelly, Executive Director, Regional Delivery, Local Land Services, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Dr Lisa Szabo, Acting Executive Director, Biosecurity and Food Safety, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Dr Kim Filmer, Chief Animal Welfare Officer, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Dr Jacqueline Tracey, Executive Director, Policy, Local Land Services, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (via videoconference)
- Ms Harriet Whyte, Executive Director, Regional Programs and Partnerships, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 5.28 pm.

The public and media withdrew.

4.6 Tabled documents

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

- Document, Diary disclosure summary, Minister for Agriculture for the period of 1 October 2024 to 31 December 2024, tabled by Mr Fang MLC
- Document, copy of social media post published by Tara Moriarty MLC, discussing a visit to Dunghutti Elders Council, Kempsey NSW, dated 13 October 2024, tabled by Mr Fang MLC
- Letter from Michael McMahon, CEO, Dubbo Regional Council, to Casey Grice, Director Western Cluster, NSW Office of Sport, regarding the Dubbo indoor multisport facility and regional sports infrastructure fund grant allocation, tendered by the Hon Tara Moriarty MLC
- A collection of images of a social event with alcohol at a marine park, tabled by Ms Hurst MLC.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5.29 pm, until 9.00 am, Wednesday 26 February 2025, Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Budget Estimates 2024-2025 – Small Business, Lands and property, Multiculturalism, Sport.

Rhia Victorino

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 32

Wednesday 26 February 2025

Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Regional NSW

Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.03 am

1. Members present

Mr Banasiak, *Chair* (until 9.29 am, and from 10.03 am until 11.29 am, and from 11.59 am until 12.23 pm)

Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair* (until 10.36 am, and from 10.42 am until 3.29 pm)

Mr Donnelly (until 10.55 am, and from 11.17 am until 2.00 pm, and from 3.00 pm)

Mr Farlow (substituting for Mrs Mitchell until 12.04 pm, and from 12.13 pm)

Mr Fang (substituting for Mrs MacDonald)

Ms Higginson (participating until 9.05 am, and from 2.00 pm until 3.08 pm)

Dr Kaine (substituting for Mr Murphy until 3.01 pm, and from 3.57 pm)

Mr Latham (participating until 10.09 am, and from 10.30 am)

Mr Primrose (via videoconference)

Ms Mihailuk (participating from 9.08 am until 10.55 am, and from 2.00 pm until 2.22 pm)

2. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025

2.1 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.

2.2 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 hearing for the Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport portfolio is to alternate between *crossbench and opposition members, in that order*, with equal time allocated to each.

2.3 Public hearing – Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport (Kamper)

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 Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport open for examination.

The Hon Stephen Kamper MP, Minister for Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism and Sport, was admitted and examined.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Mr Adam Berry, Acting Chief Executive, Office of Sport
- Mr Mark Frost, Acting NSW Small Business Commissioner, NSW Small Business Commission.

The following witnesses were examined on their former oath:

- Ms Kiersten Fishburn, Secretary, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
- Mr Leon Walker, Deputy Secretary, Property and Development NSW
- Ms Jennifer Hickey, Chief Executive Officer, Cemeteries and Crematoria NSW
- Mr Stewart McLachlan, Chief Executive Officer, Valuation NSW
- Mr Tom Gellibrand, Chief Executive, Infrastructure NSW
- Mr Joseph La Posta, Chief Executive Officer, Multicultural NSW
- Ms Kerrie Mather, Chief Executive Officer, Venues NSW
- Mr Graeme Head AO, Secretary, Department of Customer Service
- Mr Greg Wells, Chief Executive Officer, Service NSW, Department of Customer Service
- Ms Cassandra Gibbens, Executive Director, Department of Customer Service.

In the absence of the Chair, the Deputy Chair took the Chair at 9.29 am.

Ms Mihailuk tabled the following document:

- NSW Labor Reportable State Campaign Donations 2022-23 – Selected pages downloaded from NSW Electoral Commission reportable donations portal www.efadisclosures.elections.nsw.gov.au/

The Chair rejoined the meeting at 10.03 am.

Mr Latham tabled the following document:

- Correspondence from Dr Saranne Cooke, Chairman, Racing NSW, to Mr Latham, regarding proposed legislation concerning the management of Crown land, dated 17 February 2025.

In the absence of the Chair, the Deputy Chair took the Chair at 11.29 am.

Ms Hurst tabled the following document:

- Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, 'Attachment F: Risk assessment of the appointment of Racing NSW as Crown Land Manager (CLM)'.

The Chair rejoined the meeting at 11.59 am.

The Chair called Mr Fang called to order for the first time.

The Minister withdrew at 12.45 pm.

Mr McLachlan, Mr Frost, Ms Hickey, Mr Head, Mr Wells and Ms Gibbens withdrew at 3.29 pm.

Mr Berry and Ms Mather withdrew at 4.22 pm.

Mr Farlow tabled the following document:

- Multicultural NSW's rating on Google.

Mr La Posta withdrew at 4.56 pm.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 5.12 pm.

The public and media withdrew.

2.4 Tabled documents

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

- NSW Labor Reportable State Campaign Donations 2022-23 – Selected pages downloaded from NSW Electoral Commission reportable donations portal www.efadisclosures.elections.nsw.gov.au/, tabled by Ms Mihailuk
- Correspondence from Dr Saranne Cooke, Chairman, Racing NSW, to Mr Latham, regarding proposed legislation concerning the management of Crown land, dated 17 February 2025, tabled by Mr Latham
- Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, 'Attachment F: Risk assessment of the appointment of Racing NSW as Crown Land Manager (CLM)', tabled by Ms Hurst.

3. Adjournment

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

Teneale Houghton
Committee Clerk

Draft minutes no. 37

Monday 23 June 2025

Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Regional NSW

McKell Room, Parliament House, Sydney at 2.36 pm

1. Members present

Mr Banasiak, *Chair*

Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Barrett (substituting for Mrs Mitchell)

Mr Donnelly

Mrs MacDonald

Mr Murphy

Ms Suvaal (substituting for Mr Primrose, via videoconference)

2. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Murphy: That draft minutes nos. 31 and 32 be confirmed.

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received:

- 3 March 2025 – Correspondence from the Abalone Association NSW to the Chair regarding evidence given at the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport (Kamper) additional hearing on 26 February 2025
- 10 April 2025 – Email from Foreshore For All to the committee regarding evidence given at the Budget Estimates 2024-2025 Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport (Kamper) additional hearing on 26 February 2025.

4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2024-2025

4.1 Tabled document - Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport (Kamper) hearing 26 February 2025

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Donnelly: That the committee accept and publish the following document tabled during the Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport hearing on 26 February 2025:

- Multicultural NSW's rating on Google, tabled by Mr Farlow.

4.2 Answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions

The committee noted that the following answers to questions on notice 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 Tara Moriarty MLC, Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Western New South Wales, received 24 March 2025
- answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from the Hon Stephen Kamper MP from the hearing for the Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport portfolios on 26 February 2025, received 25 March 2025.

4.3 Consideration of Chair's draft report

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

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Donnelly: That:

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

The transcripts of evidence, tabled documents, correspondence and answers to questions taken on notice and supplementary questions relating to the inquiry be tabled in the House with the report;

Upon tabling, all unpublished transcripts of evidence, tabled documents, correspondence and answers to questions taken on notice and supplementary questions 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 2.37 pm, *Sine die*.

Amanda Assoum
Committee Clerk

