



BUDGET ESTIMATES 2025-2026

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Initial hearings

1. That the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2025-2026 presenting the amounts to be appropriated from the Consolidated Fund be referred to the Portfolio Committees for inquiry and report.
2. That, further to the resolution of the House of 12 November 2024 adopting the 2025 sitting calendar, the 2025-2026 initial budget estimates hearings be scheduled as follows:

Day One: Tuesday 19 August 2025

PC 6 Roads, Regional Transport

PC 5 Families and Communities, Disability Inclusion

Day Two: Wednesday 20 August 2025

PC 1 Premier

PC 4 Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport, Jobs and Tourism

Day Three: Thursday 21 August 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 22 August 2025

PC 2 Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth

PC 1 Treasurer

Day Five: Monday 25 August 2025

PC 7 Planning and Public Spaces

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

Day Six: Tuesday 26 August 2025
 PC 8 Small Business, Recovery, North Coast
 PC 1 Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, the Central Coast, Medical Research

Day Seven: Wednesday 27 August 2025
 PC 3 Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney
 PC 1 The Legislature

Day Eight: Thursday 28 August 2025
 PC 5 Attorney-General
 PC 6 Special Minister of State, Transport, the Arts, Music and the Night-time Economy

Day Nine: Friday 29 August 2025
 PC 3 Skills, TAFE, Tertiary Education
 PC 7 Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage

Day Ten: Monday 1 September 2025
 PC 1 Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety
 PC 4 Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales

Day Eleven: Tuesday 2 September 2025
 PC 8 Local Government
 PC 1 Finance, Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, Natural Resources

Day Twelve: Wednesday 3 September 2025
 PC 8 Customer Service and Digital Government, Emergency Services, Youth Justice
 PC 5 Police and Counter Terrorism, the Hunter.

3. That for the purposes of the 2025-2026 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.
4. 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) Roads, Regional Transport,

- (ii) Premier,
 - (iii) Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast,
 - (iv) Treasurer,
 - (v) Planning and Public Spaces,
 - (vi) Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, the Central Coast, Medical Research,
 - (vii) Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney,
 - (viii) Special Minister of State, Transport, the Arts, Music and the Night-time Economy,
 - (ix) Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage,
 - (x) Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety,
 - (xi) Finance, Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, Natural Resources,
 - (xii) Customer Service and Digital Government, Emergency Services, Youth Justice,
- (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) Families and Communities, Disability Inclusion,
 - (ii) Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport, Jobs and Tourism,
 - (iii) Women, Seniors, Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault,
 - (iv) Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth,
 - (v) Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Industry and Trade, Innovation, Science and Technology, Building, Corrections,
 - (vi) Small Business, Recovery, North Coast,
 - (vii) The Legislature,
 - (viii) Attorney-General,
 - (ix) Skills, TAFE, Tertiary Education,
 - (x) Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales,
 - (xi) Local Government,
 - (xii) Police and Counter Terrorism, the Hunter.

5. That for the purposes of the 2025-2026 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.
6. That, as per the resolution of the House on 12 November 2024 adopting the 2025 sitting calendar, the 2025-2026 supplementary budget estimates hearings are to be held from 1 December to 5 December 2025, and are to be conducted under the same terms as the initial hearings, unless the committee decides otherwise.
7. That the committees report by 26 June 2026.¹

Further initial hearings

1. That this House notes that:
- (a) on 26 June 2025, the House adopted a schedule of initial budget estimates hearings for 2025- 2026 over 12 working days from 19 August 2025 to 3 September 2025,
 - (b) the following hearing was unable to be conducted as scheduled by Portfolio Committee No. 8 – Customer Service due to the unavailability of the Minister:
Day Six: Tuesday 26 August 2025
PC 8 Small Business, Recovery, North Coast, and
 - (c) following this, Portfolio Committee No. 8 – Customer Service rescheduled the original hearing to the following date:
Day Thirteen: Friday 5 September 2025
PC 8 Small Business, Recovery, North Coast.
2. That in view of the inability of Portfolio Committee No. 8 – Customer Service to conduct the original initial hearing, the House endorse the rescheduled hearing held on 5 September 2025.²

¹ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 26 June 2025, Item 2.

² *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 10 September 2025, Item 14.