

**Submission
No 8**

INQUIRY INTO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL COMMITTEE SYSTEM

Organisation: Office of the Valuer General

Date received: 4/03/2016



Ms Beverly Duffy
Clerk of the Committee
Select Committee on the Legislative Council Committee System
Upper House Committees
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Duffy

Submission - Legislative Council Committee System

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission.

My comments generally relate to my experience with the Joint Standing Committee on the Office of the Valuer General (JSCOVG) but may have broader application in relation to this inquiry.

The JSCOVG provides the important function of oversight of the Valuer General, contributing to the community's confidence in the valuation system and shaping policies and services for the community.

Accessing information – early engagement (Question 1)

The JSCOVG monitors and reviews the Valuer General's functions. In undertaking this role, the committee is provided with open access to information held by the Valuer General.

Information sought by the JSCOVG often deals with technical issues and may be complex. In these cases the provision of information can be resource intensive and at times uncertainty can exist in relation to the request and how to best meet the committee's objectives.

Early engagement between the JSCOVG or their secretariat and the Valuer General to understand requirements, address any issues and explain technical matters would assist in the provision of information that best meets the committee's needs and improves efficiency.

A structured process for early engagement may provide benefits to the committee process.

Community engagement (Question 18)

Parliamentary committees give the community an independent avenue to provide information, evidence or make comment about a matter. This is a valuable aspect of the committee system. The use of social media, online questionnaires and other innovative approaches to engage with the broad range of stakeholders is supported.

Please contact Office of the Valuer General on or
if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

Simon Gilkes
Valuer General
4 March 2016