

General Purpose Standing Committee No 5

# **Budget Estimates 2001-2002**

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## How to contact the committee

Members of the General Purpose Standing Committee No 5 can be contacted through the Committee Secretariat. Written correspondence and inquiries should be directed to:

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The Director

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## **Terms of Reference**

- 1)** That the Budget Estimates and related documents presenting the amounts to be appropriated from the Consolidated Fund be referred to the General Purpose Standing Committees for inquiry and report.
- 2)** That the Committees consider the Budget Estimates in accordance with the allocation of portfolios to the Committees.
- 3)** For the purposes of this inquiry any Member of the House may attend a meeting of a Committee in relation to the Budget Estimates and question witnesses, participate in the deliberations of the Committee at such meeting and make a dissenting statement relating to the Budget Estimates, but may not vote or be counted for the purpose of any quorum.
- 4)** The Committees must hear evidence on the Budget Estimates in public.
- 5)** Not more than 3 Committees are to hear evidence on the Budget Estimates simultaneously.
- 6)** When a Committee hears evidence on the Budget Estimates, the Chair is to call on items of expenditure in the order decided on and declare the proposed expenditure open for examination.
- 7)** The Committees may ask for explanations from Ministers in the House, or officers of departments, statutory bodies or corporations, relating to the items of proposed expenditure.
- 8)** The report of a Committee on the Budget Estimates may propose the further consideration of any items.
- 9)** A daily Hansard record of the hearings of a Committee on the Budget Estimates is to be published as soon as practicable after each day's proceedings.
- 10)** The Committees have leave to sit during the sittings or any adjournment of the House.
- 11)** The Committees present a final report to the House by Thursday 6 September 2001.

These terms of reference were referred to the Committee by the Legislative Council on 29 May 2001 (Minutes of Proceedings No 100, p 969)

## Committee Membership

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**Hon Richard Jones MLC** Independent *Chair*

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**Ms Jan Burnswoods MLC** Australian Labor Party *Deputy Chair*

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**Hon Richard Colless MLC** National Party

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**Hon Janelle Saffin MLC** Australian Labor Party

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**Hon John Jobling MLC** Liberal Party

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**Hon John Johnson MLC** Australian Labor Party

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**Hon Malcolm Jones MLC** Outdoor Recreation Party

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## Other Members who attended the hearings

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**Hon John Ryan MLC** Liberal Party

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**Hon Ian Macdonald MLC** Australian Labor Party

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**Hon Charlie Lynn MLC** Liberal Party

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**Hon Doug Moppett MLC** National Party

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**Hon Duncan Gay MLC** National Party

---

**Hon Tony Kelly MLC** Australian Labor Party

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**Hon Don Harwin MLC** Liberal Party

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**Hon Amanda Fazio MLC** Australian Labor Party

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**Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC** National Party

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## **Chair's Foreword**

General Purpose Standing Committee No 5 has examined the Budget Estimates for 2001-2002 for the portfolio areas of:

Information Technology, Energy, Forestry, Western Sydney

Agriculture, Land and Water Conservation

Environment, Emergency Services

Local Government, Regional Development and Rural Affairs

The Committee expresses its appreciation to the Ministers and officers of the departments and organisations who appeared before it.

**Jan Burnswoods MLC**  
Deputy Chair





# Introduction

## Referral of the 2001-2002 Budget Estimates

On 29 May 2001, the Legislative Council resolved that the Budget Estimates and related documents presenting the amounts to be appropriated from the Consolidated Funds be referred to the General Purpose Standing Committees for inquiry and report.<sup>1</sup> Each Committee was required to examine the Budget Estimates for their relevant portfolios and report to the House by Thursday 6 September 2001.<sup>2</sup>

## Examination of the Budget Estimates

General Purpose Standing Committee No 5 examined the Budget Estimates and related documents for its portfolios at a series of public hearings held on the following dates:

- 22 June 2001 Local Government, Regional Development and Rural Affairs
- 22 June 2001 Information Technology, Energy, Forestry, Western Sydney
- 22 June 2001 Agriculture, Land and Water Conservation
- 25 June 2001 Environment and Emergency Services
- 27 July 2001 Sydney Water

This report summarises the main issues discussed at each hearing. The full transcript of evidence taken at these hearings can be found at the Committee's Web page accessible via the Parliament's home page at: [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au). Hard copies of the transcript can be obtained by contacting the General Purpose Standing Committee Secretariat on **02 9230 3544**.

During these hearings, Ministers took a number of questions on notice. In addition the Committee lodged written questions on notice in relation to several portfolio areas. The Committee notes that answers have been provided to questions on notice. Some members of the Committee are less than satisfied by the quality of information supplied by some Ministers in response to questions supplied by the Committee. Copies of the questions and answers can be found at the Committee's Web page at the above address. Appendix 3 contains details of response times for questions placed on notice by the Committee as part of the 2001-2002 Budget Estimates and related documents inquiry.

A number of documents were tabled during the Committee's public hearings. A list of tabled documents appears at Appendix 2. Where possible, copies of these documents have been placed at the Committee's Web page accessible via the above address. Arrangements for the inspection of tabled documents can be made by contacting the General Purpose Standing Committee Secretariat on the above telephone number.

Relevant minutes of the Committee's proceedings appear at Appendix 4.

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<sup>1</sup> Minutes of Proceedings, No 100, 29 May 2001. See Appendix 1 for more information about the General Purpose Standing Committees.

<sup>2</sup> Resolution of 29 May 2001, para 11.

## **Chapter 1      Local Government, Regional Development and Rural Affairs**

The Committee heard from the Hon Harry Woods MP, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Regional Development and Minister for Rural Affairs together with Mr Gary Payne, Director-General, Mr John Scott, Director, Policy and Reform and Mr John Hogg, Manager, Business Services, all of the Department of Local Government, Mr Loftus Harris, Director-General, Mr Michael Cullen, Executive Director (Regional Development) and Mr Noel Mercer, General Manager Executive Support, Mr T Overy, Departmental Liaison Officer, all of the Department of State and Regional Development, Mr Scott Davies, Chief of Staff, Ms Shoshana Lenthén, Media Adviser, Mr Mike Fleming, Senior Adviser (Local Government), Mr Ado Zanella, Senior Adviser (Regional Development), and Mr Craig Munnings, Senior Parliamentary Adviser, all of the Office of the Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Rural Affairs and Minister for Local Government, at a public hearing held on 22 June 2001.

A list of the issues discussed at the hearing is provided below. For further details on these matters, see the Hansard record for this hearing.

### **Local Government**

- Amalgamation of local councils
- Relocation of Department to Nowra
- Micro-chipping of companion animals
- Companion Animals Act
- Albury-Wodonga amalgamation

### **Regional Development**

- Rural Affairs as a ministerial portfolio
- Country life styles program
- Forthcoming regional projects
- Program targets for employment creation
- Employment for small business
- Impediments for regional development

- Dairy deregulation financial assistance (Regional Economic Transition Scheme)
- Lithgow aluminium smelter
- Regional development projects in central west New South Wales
- Ministerial memorandum 99/24
- Ministerial office expenditure
- Projects in the Western Division
- Benefits of the Olympics to regional areas
- Country sewerage/septic safe program
- Abattoirs and meat processing industry adjustment
- Organic commodities
- Cellulose Valley
- Beyond 2000 – employment proposals
- Department of State and Regional Development website.

## **Chapter 2 Information Technology, Energy, Forestry, Western Sydney**

The Committee heard from the Hon Kim Yeadon MP, Minister for Information Technology, Minister for Energy, Minister for Forestry, and Minister for Western Sydney together with Mr W Watkins, Director-General and Ms K Livingstone, Senior Policy Adviser, both of the Department of Information Technology, Ms J McAloon, Director-General, Mr D Halliday, Policy Adviser and Ms M Sahore, Departmental Liaison Officer, all of the Ministry of Energy and Utilities, Mr M Fogarty, Executive Director, Sustainable Energy Development Authority (SEDA), Dr B Smith, Chief Executive Officer, and Mr P Payne, Departmental Liaison Officer, both of State Forests of NSW, Ms M Ryan, Executive Director and Mr D Munro, Departmental Liaison Officer, both of the Office of Western Sydney, at a public hearing held on 22 June 2001.

A list of the issues discussed at the hearing is provided below.<sup>3</sup> For further details on these matters, see the Hansard record for this hearing.

### **Information Technology**

- Departmental website
- Land Information Centre
- Access to on-line services (legal and land titles)

### **Energy**

- Real time meters
- Load profiling
- Sustainable Energy Development Authority
- Carbon trading and greenhouse reductions
- Integral Energy
- Role of NSW Treasury's Market Implementation Group
- Country Energy
- Broadwater co-generation plant

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<sup>3</sup> The Committee resolved to consider Sydney Water at a separate hearing – see chapter 5.

- Programs to encourage the use of photovoltaic energy technology
- Staffing and operations of Pacific Power International

## **Forestry**

- Plantation forestry
- Plantations and Re-forestation Act
- Land acquisition
- Role of private sector investment
- Forestry Act – review
- Sydney Futures Exchange
- Forestry production targets
- Renewable Energy – forest waste, domestic green waste, sawmill waste
- Forest Managerial Zones (FMZ's)/Wilderness Areas/Recreational Areas

## **Western Sydney**

- Waste recycling
- Other revenue and sponsorship
- Employment in Office of Western Sydney
- Western Sydney awards
- Genetic engineering

## **Chapter 3      Agriculture, and Land and Water Conservation**

The Committee heard from the Hon Richard Amery MP, Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Land and Water Conservation, together with Dr K Sheridan AO, Director-General, Dr R F Sheldrake, Deputy Director-General, Mr S Griffith, General Manager, Rural Assistance Authority, Dr A C Gleeson, Executive Director (Administration), Mr T Ely, Financial Controller, Mr C Begg, Public Affairs Officer, and Mr I Hallet, Senior Project Officer, all of the Department of Agriculture, Dr B Smith, Director-General and Mr M Sheather, Director, Corporate Finance, both of the Department of Land and Water Conservation, at a public hearing held on 22 June 2001.

A list of the issues discussed at the hearing is provided below. For further details on these matters, see the Hansard record for this hearing.

### **Land and Water Conservation**

- Budgetary funding for the Department of Land and Water Conservation to implement reforms in the *Water Management Act 2000*
- Water pricing – full cost recovery
- Employment of the Deputy Director General - Natural Resource Management, Department of Land and Water Conservation
- Salinity – Inter-governmental Agreement/Bilateral Agreement - National Action Plan
- Expenditure and programs to address salinity
- Country towns water supply and sewerage scheme
- Operation and closure of the Hawkesbury – Nepean Catchment Management Trust
- Establishment and operation of a no net loss native vegetation policy
- Clearance rates for woody vegetation
- Salinity – land holder farm study
- Native vegetation incentive fund
- The role of Water Management Committees
- Bulk water access regime – water sharing plans

- Identifying wetlands outside protected areas
- Performance indicators in the Department of Land and Water Conservation's Annual Report
- Costs of reporting on budget estimates questions on notice.

## **Agriculture**

- Land contamination compensation for cattle tick dip sites
- Budget allocation reduction
- Retained revenue – sales of goods and services
- Sale of assets – Rydlemere vet laboratories
- Operating expenses – grants and subsidies
- Retained revenue – industry contribution
- Impacts of deregulation in the dairy industry
- Interstate dairy industry comparisons
- Dairy exports
- Establishment of NSW Agriculture's Centre for Organic Farming and the New South Wales Organic Industry Liaison Committee
- Domestic and international trade in organics
- Funding from the NSW Government's Education and Training Plan for Sustainable Agriculture in the Sydney region to assist non-English speaking farmers convert to organic production
- Budget for quality and safety assurance programs (foot and mouth disease)
- Genetically modified crops
- Costs of providing answers to Budget Estimates questions on notice

## **Chapter 4      Environment and Emergency Services**

The Committee heard from the Hon Bob Debus MP, Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts together with Mr H Howard, Director-General, State Emergency Service, Mr P Koperberg, Commissioner, NSW Rural Fire Service, Mr I MacDougall, Commissioner, New South Wales Fire Brigades, Ms L Corbyn, Director-General, Mr A Ramsey, Executive Director, Finance and Administration, Mr B Watt, Manager, Services, all of the NSW Environment Protection Authority, Mr B Gilligan, Director-General, and Mr A Diakos, Director, Corporate Services, both of National Parks and Wildlife Service, Mr R Grimwade, Managing Director, and Mr R Moran, Manager, Finance, both of Waste Service NSW, at a public hearing held on 25 June 2001.

A list of the issues discussed at the hearing is provided below. For further details on these matters, see the Hansard record for this hearing.

### **Emergency Services**

- Expenditure and completion date for the new Shellharbour fire station
- Location of new fire pumps for country NSW
- Viability of procuring new firefighting aircraft
- Types of communication equipment utilised by the NSW Rural Fire Service
- Changes in fire station project costs
- Recommendations of GPSC5 – Inquiry into Rural Fire Service
- Establishment of fire risk management plans by bushfire management committees
- Operation of Community Fire Guard and Fire Safe towns community education program
- Education and training of NSW Rural Fire Service personnel in ecological sustainable bush fire management

### **Environment**

- Adjustments to solid waste charges levied on councils
- Expenditure on litter reduction and stormwater protection programs
- Extended producer responsibility for waste products



- Waste fund expenditure
- Particle emissions from solid fuel heaters
- EPA's in-house electricity efficiency measures
- Compliance and licences
- Priority Primary Sewerage Program
- Performance contracts and salary packages
- Air quality monitoring expenditure
- EPA actions/penalties against state government agencies
- Environmental trust projects
- Tax equivalent dividends paid by Sydney Catchment Authority

### **Waste Service NSW**

- Expenditure and purpose of Waste Service NSW acquiring additional floor space at its Chatswood office
- Financial position of Waste Service NSW

### **National Parks and Wildlife**

- Thredbo landslide compensation claims
- Land clearing by TransGrid in national parks
- Revenue received from lessees of Fort Dennison and renovations costs to the department from refurbishment of the site
- Progress of RACAC's assessment of environmental, cultural and social values of the South Brigalow belt (including the Goonoo Goonoo and Pilga) forest area
- Expenditure involved in operation of the brumby control program
- Expenditure on brumby heritage assessment
- Expenditure on pest species management
- Budget and staff allocations for national park management

- Ability to access submissions made to National Parks and Wildlife Service concerning wilderness declaration proposals
- Development, exhibition, approval and funding of threatened species recovery plans
- Identification criterion for wilderness areas
- Processes involved in establishing aquatic sanctuary zones and marine parks

## Chapter 5 Sydney Water

The Committee heard from the Hon Kim Yeadon MP, Minister for Information Technology, Minister for Energy, Minister for Forestry and Minister for Western Sydney, together with Mr A Walker, Managing Director, Mr A Henderson, Manager, Capital Projects, Mr Ron Quill, General Manager, Asset Solutions, and Mr D Halliday, Policy Advisor, all of Sydney Water at a public hearing held on Friday 27 July 2001. At the request of the Minister, Mr Walker, Mr Henderson and Mr Quill were summoned to attend before the Committee.

A list of the issues discussed at the hearing is provided below. For further details on these matters refer to the Hansard record for the hearing.

### Sydney Water

- Northside storage tunnel – costs, performance, operational environment management plan, environmental benefits
- Dividend and tax equivalent payments made by Sydney Water to NSW Treasury for 2000-01 and that estimated for 2001-02
- Action to address sewer main breaks
- Extent of reliance on borrowings to finance capital works
- Staff redundancies
- Incorporation of Australian Water Technologies into Sydney Water
- NSW Health requirements for water quality testing
- Filtration, regulation and monitoring of emissions from the Scotts Creek vent
- Reimbursement of the cost of mediation between Gleneon Ruldolf Steiner School and Sydney Water
- Health effects of chlorination of drinking water
- Improvements to service delivery by Sydney Water
- Sydney Water's statement of corporate intent and business plan
- Expected commencement and completion dates for upgrading of the North Head sewage treatment plant
- Level of compliance by Sydney Water with operating licences issued by the Environment Protection Authority

- Tax advantages achieved through the formation of a subsidiary of Australian Water Technologies International in Thailand
- Appeals by Sydney Water against licence conditions applied by the Environment Protection Authority
- Pricing trends for water supply over the past five years
- Current and anticipated level of borrowings by Sydney Water
- Operating profit for Sydney Water for the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001
- Expansion of the Sydney Water sewage system

## **Conclusion**

The Committee did not seek to hold further hearings with any Minister. The Committee was assisted in this by way of the questions taken on notice by the Minister. It is noted that in future estimates hearings, detailed answers to questions obviate the need for further hearings.



## **Appendix 1**

# **Establishment, Powers and Portfolios of the General Purpose Standing Committees**

# **Establishment, powers and portfolios of the General Purpose Standing Committees**

## **Establishment of the General Purpose Standing Committees**

The five General Purpose Standing Committees of the Legislative Council were first established in 1997.<sup>4</sup> The committees were reappointed on 13 May 1999, shortly after the commencement of the present Parliament.<sup>5</sup> Since the inception of the General Purpose Standing Committees, the Budget Estimates and related papers have been referred to them for inquiry and report.

The General Purpose Standing Committees have a majority of non-government members. Of the five General Purpose Standing Committees, three are chaired by Cross Bench members and two are chaired by Opposition members.

The functions of the General Purpose Standing Committees are to inquire into and report on:

- any matters referred to them by the House,
- the expenditure, performance or effectiveness of any department of government, statutory body or corporation,
- any matter in any annual report of a department of government, statutory body or corporation.<sup>6</sup>

## **Powers of the General Purpose Standing Committees**

The General Purpose Standing Committees have power to:

- send for and examine persons, papers, records and things
- adjourn from place to place
- make visits of inspection within the State
- request the attendance of and examine members of the House
- publish, before presentation to the House, submissions received and evidence taken in public and
- report from time to time their proceedings, evidence taken in public and recommendations.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Minutes of Proceedings, No 65, 7 May 1997, p. 677.

<sup>5</sup> Minutes of Proceedings, No 3, 13 May 1999, p. 62 (hereafter referred to as Resolution of 13 May 1999).

<sup>6</sup> Resolution of 13 May 1999, para 3.

<sup>7</sup> Resolution of 13 May 1999, para 8.



## Portfolios

The five General Purpose Standing Committees have responsibility for Government Ministers' portfolio responsibilities,<sup>8</sup> which are as follows:

### **General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1**

Premiers, Arts and Citizenship  
 Treasury, State Development  
 Education and Training  
 The Legislature  
 Special Minister of State, Assistant Treasurer, Industrial Relations

### **General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2**

Health  
 Community Services, Ageing, Disability Services, Women  
 Small Business, Tourism  
 Mineral Resources, Fisheries

### **General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3**

Police  
 Attorney General  
 Fair Trading, Sport and Recreation, Corrective Services  
 Juvenile Justice, Youth

### **General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4**

Urban Affairs and Planning, Aboriginal Affairs, Housing  
 Transport, Roads  
 Gaming and Racing, Hunter Development  
 Public Works and Services

### **General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5**

Information Technology, Energy, Forestry, Western Sydney  
 Agriculture, Land and Water Conservation  
 Environment, Emergency Services  
 Local Government, Regional Development, Rural Affairs

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<sup>8</sup> Resolution of 13 May 1999, para 1.



## **Appendix 2**

### **Documents Tabled at Committee Hearings**

## **Tabled documents**

### **Friday 22 June 2001 - Local Government, Regional Development, Rural Affairs**

- Local Government Planning & Environment Act, Section 263, clause 3

## **Appendix 3**

# **Response Times for Questions on Notice**

## Response time for questions on Notice

The Committee resolved that a set time period be set for Members to lodge written questions on notice following each hearing. The Committee further resolved that the relevant Minister be requested to provide answers to questions within 35 of this date.

<b>Minister</b>	<b>Hearing Date</b>	<b>Time Period</b>	<b>Date Questions Sent</b>	<b>Return Date for Answers</b>	<b>Date Answers Received</b>
Hon R J Debus MP	22 June 2001	35 Days from 27 June 2001	2 July 2001	1 August 2001	6 August 2001
Hon H F Woods MP	22 June 2001	35 Days from 25 June 2001	2 July 2001	30 July 2001	7 August 2001
Hon K M Yeadon MP	22 June 2001	35 Days from 25 June 2001	2 July 2001	30 July 2001	7 August 2001
Hon R S Amery MP	22 June 2001	35 Days from 25 June 2001	2 July 2001	30 July 2001	6 August 2001
Hon K M Yeadon MP (Sydney Water)	27 July 2001	28 Days from 3 August 2001	7 August 2001	31 August 2001	3 September 2001

# **Appendix 4**

## **Minutes of Proceedings**

## Minutes No 54

Friday 22 June 2001

At Parliament House at 9.35am

### 1. Members Present

Mr R Jones (Chair)  
Mr Colless  
Ms Fazio (Johnson)  
Ms Gardiner (Colless) - for Regional Development and Local Government Portfolios  
Mr Gay (Jobling)  
Mr M Jones  
Mr Kelly (Burnswoods)  
Ms Saffin

### 2. Apologies

Nil

### 3. Budget Estimates 2001-2002

The Chair advised that Mr Kelly would be representing Ms Burnswoods, Ms Fazio would be representing Mr Johnson, Mr Gay would be representing Mr Jobling, and for the Regional Development and Local Government Portfolios, Ms Gardiner would be representing Mr Colless.

The Chair made a statement to Members regarding the broadcasting of proceedings.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Gay, that the following allocations of time be adhered to during the hearing: sixty minutes for the portfolio areas of Regional Development and Rural Affairs and sixty minutes for the portfolio area of Local Government. For each portfolio, Opposition Members to have thirty minutes and Cross Bench Members to have thirty minutes. Time remaining from the Regional Development and Rural Affairs allocation will be allocated to the Local Government portfolio, shared equally between the Opposition and Cross Bench Members.

The Hon Harry Woods MP, Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Rural Affairs and Minister for Local Government was admitted and accompanied by the following advisers:

#### ***Department for Local Government***

Mr Gary Payne, Director General  
Mr John Scott, Director Policy and Reform  
Mr John Hogg, Manager Business Services



***Department for State and Regional Development***

Mr Loftus Harris, Director General

Mr Michael Cullen, Executive Director (Regional Development)

Mr Noel Mercer, General Manager Executive Support

***Office of the Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Rural Affairs and Minister for Local Government***

Mr Scott Davies, Chief of Staff

Ms Shoshana Lenthén, Media Adviser

Mr Mike Fleming, Senior Adviser (Local Government)

Mr Ado Zanella, Senior Adviser (Regional Development)

Mr Craig Munnings, Senior Parliamentary Adviser

The public and media were admitted.

The Chair made a statement regarding certain procedural matters during hearings on budget estimates.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Local Government, Regional Development and Rural Affairs open for examination.

The Minister and his advisers answered questions by Members of the Committee.

The Minister tendered a document in support of his evidence.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Saffin, that the Committee accept the document.

Examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Local Government, Regional Development and Rural Affairs concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public and media withdrew.

#### **4. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 11.30am until 1.00 pm.

**Steven Carr**

Clerk to the Committee

## Minutes No 55

22 June 2001

At Parliament House at 1.00pm

### 5. Members Present

Mr R Jones (Chair)

Mr Colless

Mr Gay (Jobling) for Information Technology, Energy and Forestry

Mr M Jones

Mr Kelly (Burnswoods)

Mr Lynn (Jobling) for Western Sydney

Mr Moppett (Colless) for Forestry

Mr MacDonald (Johnson) for Information Technology

Ms Saffin

Mr Harwin (Colless) for Information Technology, Energy and Western Sydney

### 6. Apologies

Nil

### 7. Budget Estimates 2001-2002

The Chair advised that Mr Harwin would be representing Mr Colless for the Information Technology, Energy and Western Sydney portfolios, Mr Gay would be representing Mr Jobling for the Information Technology, Energy and Forestry portfolios, Mr Lynn would be representing Mr Jobling for the Western Sydney portfolio, Mr Moppett would be representing Mr Colless for the Forestry portfolio, Mr MacDonald would be representing Mr Johnson, and Mr Kelly would be representing Ms Burnswoods.

The Chair made a statement to Members regarding the broadcasting of proceedings.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Harwin, that Sydney Water and Information Technology be subject to a supplementary hearing at a date to be determined by the Committee.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Harwin that the Committee amend its resolution that "Sydney Water and Information Technology be subject to a supplementary hearing at a date to be determined by the Committee" by deleting the words "and Information Technology".

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Harwin, that the Committee examine the portfolio of Energy for up to one hour with the remaining time to be used for the examination of Forestry, Western Sydney and Information Technology.

The Hon Kim Yeadon MP Minister for Information Technology, Energy, Forestry, and Western Sydney was admitted and accompanied by the following advisers:

***Office of Information Technology and Management***

Mr Warwick Watkins, Director-General

***Ministry of Energy and Utilities***

Ms Jane McAloon, Director-General

***Sustainable Energy Development Authority (SEDA)***

Mr Mark Fogarty, Executive Director

***State Forests of NSW***

Dr Bob Smith, Chief Executive Officer

***Office of Western Sydney***

Ms Margaret Ryan, Executive Director

The public and media were admitted.

The Chair made a statement regarding certain procedural matters during hearings on budget estimates.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Information Technology, Energy, Forestry and Western Sydney open for examination.

The Minister and his advisers answered questions by Members of the Committee.

The Minister agreed to accept questions on notice provided by the Committee and respond within 35 days.

Examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Information Technology, Energy, Forestry, and Western Sydney concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public and media withdrew.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Saffin, that Members are to lodge questions on notice for the portfolios of Local Government, Regional Development and Rural Affairs with the Committee Clerk by 5.00 pm Monday 25 June 2001.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Saffin, that Members are to lodge questions on notice for the portfolios of Information Technology, Energy, Forestry and Western Sydney with the Committee Clerk by 5.00 pm Monday 25 June 2001.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Saffin, that 35 days from Monday 25 June 2001, 5.00pm be the date by which the Minister be requested to respond to questions placed on notice in relation to each of the portfolios examined by the Committee, and that answers be circulated to Members of the Committee as soon as practicable after their receipt.

## **8. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 3.15pm until 4.00pm.

**Steven Carr**

Clerk to the Committee

# Minutes No 56

22 June 2001

At Parliament House at 4.00 pm

## 1. Members Present

Mr R Jones (Chair)  
Mr Colless  
Mr Gay (Jobling)  
Mr Johnson  
Mr M Jones  
Mr Kelly  
Mr Macdonald (Burnswoods)  
Ms Saffin

## 2. Apologies

Nil

## 3. Budget Estimates 2001-2002

The Chair advised that Mr Gay would be representing Mr Jobling and Mr Macdonald would be representing Ms Burnswoods.

The Chair made a statement to Members regarding the broadcasting of proceedings.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved on the motion of Mr Colless that the Committee examine the portfolio of Land and Water Conservation for up to one hour, with the remaining time to be used for the examination of the portfolio of Agriculture.

The Hon Richard Amery MP, Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Land and Water Conservation, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisers:

### ***Department of Agriculture***

Dr K P Sheridan AO, Director-General  
Dr RF Sheldrake, Deputy Director-General  
Mr S Griffith, General Manager, Rural Assistance Authority  
Dr AC Gleeson, Executive Director (Administration)  
Mr T Ely, Financial Controller  
Mr C Begg, Public Affairs Officer  
Mr I Hallett, Senior Project Officer

***Department of Land and Water Conservation***

Dr Bob Smith, Director General

Mr Murray Sheather, Director Corporate Finance

The public and media were admitted.

The Chair made a statement regarding certain procedural matters during hearings on budget estimates.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Agriculture, and Land and Water Conservation open for examination.

The Minister and his advisers answered questions by Members of the Committee.

The Minister agreed to accept questions on notice provided by the Committee and respond within 35 days.

Examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Agriculture, and Land and Water Conservation concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public and media withdrew.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Johnson, that Members lodge questions on notice for the portfolios of Agriculture, and Land and Water Conservation with the Committee Clerk by 5.00pm Monday 25 June 2001.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Saffin, that 35 days from next Monday 25 June 2001, 5.00pm be the date by which the Minister be requested to respond to questions placed on notice in relation to each of the portfolios examined by the Committee, and that answers be circulated to Members of the Committee as soon as practicable after their receipt.

**4. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 6.00 pm until Monday 25 June 2001, at 8.00 pm.

**Steven Carr**

Clerk to the Committee

# Minutes No 57

25 June 2001

At Parliament House at 7.55 pm

## 1. Members Present

Mr R Jones (Chair)  
Ms Burnswoods  
Ms Fazio (Mr Johnson)  
Mr M Jones  
Mr Moppett (Mr Jobling)  
Mr Ryan (Mr Colless)  
Ms Saffin

## 2. Apologies

Nil

## 3. Budget Estimates 2001-2002

The Chair advised that Ms Fazio would be representing Mr Johnson and Mr Moppett would be representing Mr Jobling and Mr Ryan would be representing Mr Colless.

The Chair made a statement to Members regarding the broadcasting of proceedings.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Burnswoods, that the following allocations of time be adhered to during the hearing: Emergency Services, maximum of 30 minutes; Environment, 45 minutes. Time to be allocated evenly between Opposition and Cross Bench Members with the opportunity for Government questions. The remaining time to be spent on National Parks and Wildlife.

The Hon Bob Debus MP, Minister for the Environment and Minister for Emergency Services, was admitted and accompanied by the following advisers:

### ***Emergency Services***

Commissioner Ian MacDougall, NSW Fire Brigades  
Commissioner Phil Koperberg, NSW Rural Fire Service  
Major General Hori Howard, Director-General, State Emergency Service

### ***Environment Protection Authority***

Ms Lisa Corbyn, Director-General  
Mr Alan Ramsey, Executive Director Finance and Administration

Mr Brian Watt, Manager Services

**Waste Services NSW**

Mr Robin Grimwade, Managing Director

Mr Ray Moran, Manager Finance

**National Parks and Wildlife Service**

Mr Brian Gilligan, Director-General

Mr Arthur Diakos, Director Corporate Services.

The public and media were admitted.

The Chair made a statement regarding certain procedural matters during hearings on budget estimates.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Emergency Services, and Environment open for examination.

The Minister and his advisers answered questions by Members of the Committee.

The Minister agreed to accept questions on notice provided by the Committee and respond within 35 days.

Examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Emergency Services, and the Environment concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public and media withdrew.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Ryan, that Members lodge questions on notice for the portfolios of Emergency Services, and the Environment with the Committee Clerk by Wednesday, 5.00 pm 2001.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Ryan, that 35 days from Wednesday 27 June 2001, 5.00 pm be the date by which the Minister be requested to respond to questions placed on notice in relation to each of the portfolios examined by the Committee, and that answers be circulated Members of the Committee as soon as practicable after their receipt.

#### **4. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 10.15 pm, *sine die*.

**Steven Carr**

Clerk to the Committee



# Minutes No 60

27 July 2001

At Parliament House at 3.00pm

## 1. Members Present

Mr R Jones (Chair)  
Ms Burnswoods  
Mr Johnson  
Mr Harwin (Jobling)  
Mr Ryan

## 2. Apologies

Mr M Jones  
Ms Saffin

## 3. Budget Estimates 2001-2002

The Chair tabled the following correspondence relating to the 2001-2002 Budget Estimates and Related Papers inquiry:

- Correspondence from the Chair to the Hon Kim Yeadon MP, Minister for Information Technology, Energy, Forestry and Western Sydney dated 16 July 2001 re: today's hearing.
- Correspondence from the Hon Kim Yeadon MP, Minister for Information Technology, Energy, Forestry and Western Sydney to the Chair dated 26 July 2001 re: today's hearing

The Chair advised that Mr Harwin would be representing Mr Jobling.

The Chair made a statement to Members regarding the broadcasting of proceedings.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved on the motion of Mr Ryan that under section 4 of the *Parliamentary Papers (Supplementary Provisions) Act 1975* and under the authority of the Standing Order 252, the Committee authorises the Clerk of the Committee to publish the answers provided to questions placed on notice by the Committee, as part of the 2001-2002 Budget Estimates and Related Papers inquiry, after these answers have been circulated to Committee Members.

The Committee deliberated.

Ms Burnswoods moved that the Committee meet today for 45 minutes.

Mr Ryan moved that the motion of Ms Burnswoods be amended by deleting the words “today for a total of 45 minutes” and replacing them with “until 5.00pm”

Debate ensued.

Amendment of Mr Ryan put.

The Committee divided.

**Ayes**

Mr R. Jones

Mr Ryan

Mr Harwin

**Noes**

Ms Burnswoods

Mr Johnson

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Motion of Ms Burnswoods as amended put.

The Committee divided.

**Ayes**

Mr R. Jones

Mr Ryan

Mr Harwin

**Noes**

Ms Burnswoods

Mr Johnson

Question resolved in the affirmative.

The Committee deliberated.

The Committee agreed that time for questions be allocated as follows on a rotational basis: Opposition – 45 minutes, Mr R Jones – 15 Minutes, Government questions.

The Hon Kim Yeadon MP, Minister for Information Technology, Energy, Forestry and Western Sydney was admitted and accompanied by the following advisers:

**Sydney Water**

Mr Alex Walker, Managing Director, Sydney Water

Mr Ron Quill, General Manager – Asset Solutions

Mr Alan Henderson, General Manager – Capital Projects

Mr David Halliday, Ministerial Adviser

The public and media were admitted.

The Chair made a statement regarding certain procedural matters during hearings on budget estimates.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio area of Sydney Water open for examination.

The Minister answered questions by Members of the Committee.

The Minister withdrew at 4.00pm.

Resolved on the motion of Mr Ryan that the following officers of Sydney Water be summoned to immediately attend before the Committee for the remainder of the hearing:

Mr Alex Walker, Managing Director, Sydney Water  
Mr Ron Quill, General Manager – Asset Solutions  
Mr Alan Henderson, General Manager – Capital Projects

The officers attended before the Committee and answered questions by Members of the Committee.

Examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Sydney Water concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public and media withdrew.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Ryan, that Members lodge questions on notice for the portfolios of Sydney Water by 5.00 pm Friday 3 August 2001.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Ryan, that 28 days from 5.00 pm Friday 3 August 2001 be the date by which the Minister be requested to respond to questions placed on notice in relation to each of the portfolios examined by the Committee, and that answers be circulated to Members of the Committee as soon as practicable after their receipt and that the Minister be informed that the Committee has nominated a shorter time than previous hearings so as to give the Committee time to consider the answers prior making their report

#### **4. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 5.05 pm, *sine die*.

**Tony Davies**

Clerk to the Committee

## Minutes No 61

5 September 2001

At Parliament House at 2.00pm

### 5. Members Present

Ms Burnswoods (in the Chair)  
Mr Jobling  
Mr Colless (from 3.15pm)  
Mr Primose (Saffin)  
Mr Breen (M Jones)  
Dr Arthur Chesterfield-Evans (R Jones)  
Mr Gay (Colless) (from 2pm to 3.15pm)

### 6. Apologies

Nil

### 7. Confirmation of minutes

Resolved on motion of Mr Jobling that the minutes of meeting numbers 54, 55, 56, 57 and 60 be confirmed.

### 8. Tabled documents

The Chair tabled the following items of correspondence:

#### 4.1 Correspondence sent

- Letter dated 2 July 2001 from the Chair to the Hon Bob Debus MP regarding questions on notice
- Letter dated 2 July 2001 from the Chair to the Hon Harry Woods MP regarding questions on notice
- Letter dated 2 July 2001 from the Chair to the Hon Kim Yeadon MP regarding questions on notice
- Letter dated 6 July 2001 from the Deputy Chair to the Hon Richard Amery MP regarding questions on notice
- Letter dated 7 July 2001 from the Chair to the Hon Kim Yeadon MP regarding questions on notice
- Letter dated 16 July 2001 from the Chair to the Hon Kim Yeadon MP regarding additional Budget Estimates hearing.

#### 4.2 Correspondence received

- Facsimile received 26 July 2001 from the Hon Kim Yeadon MP regarding additional Budget Estimates hearing
- Letter received 1 August 2001 from the Hon Kim Yeadon MP regarding answers to questions on notice

- Letter received 6 August 2001 from the Hon Bob Debus MP regarding answers to questions on notice
- Letter received 6 August 2001 from the Hon Richard Amery MP regarding answers to questions on notice
- Answers to Questions on Notice received from the Hon Harry Woods MP on 7 August 2001
- Letter received 7 August 2001 from the Hon Kim Yeadon MP regarding answers to questions on notice
- Letter received 3 September 2001 from the Hon Kim Yeadon MP regarding answers to questions on notice.

## **9. Draft report on Budget Estimates 2001-2002**

The Deputy Chair submitted her draft report entitled “Budget Estimates 2001-2002”, which having been circulated to each member of the Committee was accepted as having been read.

The Committee proceeded to consider the draft report Chapter by Chapter.

Resolved on motion of Mr Jobling that the second sentence in the fourth paragraph that reads “The Committee is pleased that answers have been provided to all questions placed on notice.” be deleted and replaced by “The Committee notes that answers have been provided to questions on notice.”

Mr Jobling moved that the following sentence be added directly after the sentence above in the fourth paragraph of the Introduction: “Members of the Committee are less than satisfied by the quality of information supplied by some Ministers in response to questions supplied by the Committee.”

Debate ensued.

Mr Primrose moved an amendment to the motion of Mr Jobling that the word “Some” be inserted before the word “Members” at the beginning of the sentence and that the word “some” be inserted before the word “Ministers” in the sentence proposed by Mr Jobling.

Amendment of Mr Primrose put.

The Committee divided.

### **Ayes**

Ms Burnswoods  
Mr Primrose  
Mr Breen  
Dr Arthur Chesterfield-Evans

### **Noes**

Mr Gay  
Mr Jobling.

The question was resolved in the affirmative.

Motion of Mr Jobling as amended agreed to.

The Committee deliberated.

Dr Chesterfield-Evans tabled amendments to the draft report prepared on behalf of the Chair, Mr Richard Jones.

Dr Chesterfield-Evans moved that the amended draft report be circulated to Committee Members for consideration and that the Committee seek an extension of time from the House in which to present its final report.

Debate ensued.

The Committee divided.

**Ayes**

Dr Chesterfield-Evans

**Noes**

Ms Burnswoods

Mr Jobling

Mr Primrose

Mr Breen

Mr Gay

The question was resolved in the negative.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Jobling that the Introduction, as amended, be adopted.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Primrose, that Chapter 1 be adopted.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Primrose, that Chapter 2 be adopted.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Primrose, that Chapter 3 be adopted.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Primrose, that Chapter 4 be adopted.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Primrose, that Chapter 5 be adopted.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Jobling, that an additional chapter be added after Chapter 5 entitled "Conclusion", and that the following sentences be included in the Conclusion "The Committee did not seek to hold further hearings with any Minister. The Committee was assisted in this by way of the questions taken on notice by the Minister. It is noted that in future estimates hearings, detailed answers to questions obviate the need for further hearings."

Resolved, on the motion of Dr Chesterfield-Evans, that Appendices 1 to 4 be adopted.

Resolved on the motion of Mr Jobling the report as amended be adopted as the report of the Committee.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Colless, the report be signed by the Deputy Chair and presented to the House in accordance with the resolution referring the Budget Estimates to the Committee.

Resolved on the motion of Mr Jobling, that transcripts of evidence, tabled documents, answers to questions and relevant correspondence be tabled in the House with the report and made public.

## **10. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 3.45 pm.

**Tony Davies**

Clerk to the Committee