

General Purpose Standing Committee No 5

# **Budget Estimates 2000-2001**

## **Volume 2**

Ordered to be printed 29 August 2000



## How to contact the Committee

Members of 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<sup>1</sup>

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. After a Committee has considered proposed expenditure referred to it by the House and agreed to its report to the House, the Committee must fix:
  - (a) a day for the submission to the Committee of any written answers or additional information relating to the proposed expenditure, and
  - (b) a day for the commencement of supplementary meetings of the Committee to consider matters relating to the proposed expenditure, which day must be not less than 10 days after the day fixed under subparagraph (a).

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<sup>1</sup> Legislative Council Minutes of the Proceedings, No.41, 23 May 2000, items 16, 19 and 20.

12. (1) A Member may lodge with a Committee, not less than 3 working days before the day fixed under subparagraph (11) (b), notice of matters relating to the written answers or additional information, or otherwise relating to the proposed expenditure referred to the committee, which the Member wishes to raise at the supplementary meetings of the Committee.
- (2) Any notice lodged with a Committee must be forwarded by the Committee to the Minister in the House responsible for the matters to which the notice relates.
13. A Committee may determine at any time the number and duration of any supplementary meetings.
14. At a supplementary meeting, questions may be put to Ministers or officers of departments, statutory bodies or corporations, relating to matters of which notice has been given, and the proceedings of the Committee must be confined to those matters.
15. A Committee may report to the House any recommendation for further action by the House arising from the Committee's supplementary meetings.
16. Written questions relating to the Budget Estimates may be supplied to the Clerk of the Committee, who must distribute them to the relevant Minister and to Members of the Committee. Answers must be supplied to, and circulated by, the Clerk.
17. The Committees must:
  - (a) present a first report to the House before the House adjourns for the winter recess, and
  - (b) present a final report to the House by the first sitting day in August 2000.

## Committee Membership

The Hon Richard Jones MLC, *Chair*

Independent

The Hon Ron Dyer MLC, *Deputy Chair*

Australian Labor Party

The Hon Jan Burnswoods MLC

Australian Labor Party

The Hon Patricia Forsythe MLC<sup>2</sup>

Liberal Party

The Hon John Jobling MLC

Liberal Party

The Hon John Johnson MLC

Australian Labor Party

The Hon Malcolm Jones MLC

Outdoor Recreation Party

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<sup>2</sup> The retirement of the Hon Richard Bull MLC from the Legislative Council on 18 August 2000 resulted in the Hon Patricia Forsythe MLC being permanently appointed as Mr Bull's replacement on the Committee on 29 August 2000.





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## **Chair's Foreword**

The resolution referring the 2000-2001 Budget Estimates requires the General Purpose Standing Committees to present a final report to the House by the first sitting day in August 2000.

This report provides information about the timeframe in which Ministers responded to questions placed on notice during and after the initial round of Budget Estimates hearings, held in June 2000 (refer to the Committee's report *Budget Estimates 2000-2001, Volume 1*).

The Committee did not conduct any supplementary Budget Estimate hearings.

**The Hon Richard Jones MLC**  
Chair



## Questions on notice – all portfolios

Following completion of the initial round of budget estimates hearings, the Committee set 7 August 2000 as the date by which Ministers were to respond to questions placed on notice. The table below details the dates on which hearings were held, questions were forwarded to Ministers and responses were received.

<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Date of hearing(s)</b>	<b>Date that Committee forwarded questions on notice</b>	<b>Date that Committee received responses to questions on notice</b>
Emergency Services	6 June 2000	11 July 2000	8 August 2000
Environment	6 June 2000 20 June 2000	11 July 2000	8 August 2000
Corrective Services	6 June 2000 20 June 2000 6 July 2000	11 July 2000	8 August 2000
Local Government, Regional Development and Rural Affairs	7 June 2000	6 July 2000	8 August 2000
Information Technology, Forestry and Western Sydney	9 June 2000	7 July 2000	8 August 2000
Energy	9 June 2000 19 June 2000	7 July 2000	8 August 2000
Agriculture, Land and Water Conservation	9 June 2000	6 July 2000	8 August 2000

The Committee notes that answers provided by some portfolio Ministers were less than comprehensive. Numerous questions in the Environment, Corrective Services and Local Government portfolios, for example, remain unanswered and/or the answers provided do not contain the budgetary and other details requested.

The Committee was also disappointed that the statistics, studies and research referred to in the answers provided were not adequately identified.

If these problems recur next year, that Committee may elect to hold more extensive supplementary hearings.

## Correspondence Received

The Committee received three items of correspondence (dated 29 June 2000, 7 August 2000 and 22 August 2000) from Mr Ray Jackson, of the Indigenous Social Justice Association, disputing the information provided by the Department of Corrective Services regarding indigenous community access to NSW gaols. These documents were tabled in Committee on 29 August 2000.

# Proceedings of the Committee

## Minutes No. 39

Tuesday 29 August 2000  
At Parliament House at 3.45 pm

### 1. Members Present

Mr R Jones (in the Chair)  
Ms Burnswoods  
Mr Dyer  
Mrs Forsythe  
Mr Jobling  
Mr Johnson  
Mr M Jones

### 2. Correspondence

The Chair tabled seven items of correspondence received.

Correspondence from the Hon Bob Debus MP, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services, to Director, dated 7 August 2000 (received 8 August 2000), providing responses to questions placed on notice relating to the 2000-2001 Budget Estimates reference.

Correspondence from the Hon Kim Yeadon MP, Minister for Information Technology, Minister for Energy, Minister for Forestry and Minister for Western Sydney, to Director, dated 7 August 2000 (received 8 August 2000), providing responses to questions placed on notice relating to the 2000-2001 Budget Estimates reference.

Correspondence from the Hon Harry Woods MP, Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Rural Affairs and Minister for Local Government, to Director, dated 7 August 2000 (received 8 August 2000), providing responses to questions placed on notice relating to the 2000-2001 Budget Estimates reference.

Correspondence from the Hon Richard Amery MP, Minister for Agriculture, to Director, dated 8 August 2000 (received 8 August 2000), providing responses to questions placed on notice relating to the 2000-2001 Budget Estimates reference.

Correspondence from Mr Ray Jackson, Indigenous Social Justice Action Association Inc, to Chair, dated 29 June 2000, relating to the Committee's Corrective Services Budget Estimates hearings.

Correspondence from Mr Ray Jackson, Indigenous Social Justice Action Association Inc, to Chair, dated 7 August 2000, relating to the Committee's Corrective Services Budget Estimates hearings.

Correspondence from Mr Ray Jackson, Indigenous Social Justice Action Association Inc, to Chair, dated 22 August 2000, relating to the Committee's Corrective Services Budget Estimates hearings.

### **3. Budget Estimates reference**

The Chair submitted his draft report entitled "Budget Estimates 2000-2001, Volume 2", which having been circulated to each Member of the Committee, was accepted as being read.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Dyer that the third paragraph of the report be amended by deleting from the end of the paragraph the words "and were not supplied to the Committee to enable verification".

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

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

Resolved, on the motion of Jobling, that responses to questions on notice be tabled with the report and made public.

### **4. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3.50 pm *sine die*

Anna McNicol  
Director