



BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-2025

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.