

Hon Simon O'Brien; Hon Norman Moore; Hon Peter Foss Asked; "W Hon George Cash asked; Hon Derrick Tomlinson; Hon Alan Cadby Requested A; Hon Dee Margetts; Hon D. Margetts; Hon Barry House

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**Division 3: Premier And Cabinet -**

*Question: Hon Simon O'Brien asked for "a breakdown of superannuation, leave liabilities and the like for the adjustment figure of \$7.455 million on page 77 of the Budget Statements?"*

*Answer:* The adjustment figure of \$7.455 million is made up of movement in the following items:

	<b>\$'000</b>
Accrued salaries	74
Accounts payable	49
Prepayments	1,687
Accounts receivable	317
Superannuation liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	1,016
Cash balances	4,312
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	7,455
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*Question from Hon N.F. Moore: After highlighting that a line item for ministerial air charter shows an allocation of \$740 000, the member asked "Is that extra funding for ministerial air charter? If it is, what is the reason for the additional funds?"*

*Answer:* The contract for the ministerial air charter service contains a price escalation clause that allows the contractor to apply for increases in prices. The price formula contains components that are varied in line with movements in labour prices, the Perth consumer price index and fuel prices. There have been significant movements in the consumer price index and fuel prices. The increased allocation also allows for increased usage.

*Question: Hon Peter Foss asked -*

- (1) How many returned members have changed offices?*
- (2) How many new members have not taken over the offices of retiring members?*
- (3) What has been the maximum, minimum and mean cost of setting up those new offices?*
- (4) How does that relate to the figure of \$75 000, which the Director General wrote to me about?*
- (5) How was that figure of \$75 000 calculated?*
- (6) Why has the Director General not been prepared to look at the actual cost of shifting offices, as opposed to the mean cost?*
- (7) Why did his office twice write to me asking if I wished to move and then, when I said yes, tell me that it was against policy to allow me to do so?*
- (8) Do the department's policy guidelines recognise that Legislative Council members often play a supportive role for Legislative Assembly members and that this can change from election to election?*
- (9) What is the policy on the release of the travel details of members of Parliament?*
- (10) What information has already been released this year, and has there been any difference between the treatment of information relating to government members and that relating to opposition members? I ask for the factual answer rather than the policy.*

*Answer:*

- (1) One*
- (2) Four Members did not move into an existing office.*
- (3) No work has commenced on the premises for one of the Members. The estimated maximum, minimum and mean cost of setting up the new offices for each of the other three members is:*

Maximum: \$70,400	Minimum: \$51,500	Mean: \$61,200
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- (4) "In the vicinity" of \$75,000 was the mean figure for establishing an electorate office over the past three years.*

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| (5) | \$50,312 | Average cost of building works over the past three years |
|     | \$10,000 | Furniture costs  |
|     | \$5,000  | Telephone systems  |
|     | \$5,000  | Lease consultant fees                                    |
|     | \$3,000  | Reinstatement/termination costs                          |
- (6) Estimated costs for specific cases can only be determined following assessment by the Department of Housing and Works. Assessments are only undertaken on requests that meet current guidelines.
- (7) The Department wrote one letter to the Hon Member advising that the lease was due to expire and that a renewal option was held and sought confirmation of continued occupancy. A second letter was written seeking a response and advising that should the lease expire, the lease would revert to a monthly tenancy which risked increased rentals or termination.
- (8) Parliamentary electorate office guidelines state that electorate offices are provided for the Member for the purpose of conducting their parliamentary and electorate duties.
- (9)-(10) As is currently the case, travel details of Members utilising the Imprest System for Members of Parliament Travel will be tabled with quarterly travel reports. In addition, to improve reporting and other accountability requirements, Members using their imprest account to travel overseas and interstate will be required to provide a written report on the cost, purpose and benefits of such travel. These will also be tabled with the quarterly reports.

*Question: Hon George Cash asked, "Will the Government table the various agreements that are stated on page 92, such as the Yamatji Cooperative Planning agreement?"*

*Answer:* Yes. Copies of the Yamatji Cooperative Planning Agreement, the Spinifex native title determination and the Nharluwanga Wadjari Ngarla determination are attached. [Provided to Committee.]

*Question: Hon Derrick Tomlinson reported that "the Premier has indicated by press release that some of the forgone earnings resulting from the decision to not proceed with the luxury tax on properties valued at more than \$1 million will be absorbed in the Government's native title program". He then asked "What will be the impact on such things as applications for mining tenements, land title applications and reviews of the status of land claims?"*

*Answer:* The budgetary shortfall created by the abandonment of the premium property tax will be made up in part by delaying the Government's election commitment to employ an additional 11 Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources' Case Managers to facilitate the reduction in the backlog of mineral tenement applications.

The Technical Taskforce on Mineral Tenement and Land Title Applications (which is being chaired by Mr Barty McFarlane of the National Native Title Tribunal) has been considering the best use of the resources budgeted for this purpose. The Technical Taskforce has not yet presented the Government with its final recommendations.

As it is not expected that any program arising from the recommendation will commence until 2002, a proportion of this financial year's budget allocation has been deferred. However, there will be no overall reduction in the program. The existing systems and resources will continue to apply in regard to the processing of mineral tenement and land title applications.

*Question: Hon Alan Cadby requested a detailed supplementary budget in terms of salaries, administration costs, grants for projects and annual expenditure over the four years for the Science Council.*

*Answer:* The Science Council is essentially that of an advisory council to the Premier on WA science policy with particular reference to how the Innovate WA money should be targeted. It is serviced by the Department of Industry and Technology. A level 7 officer with a salary of \$76,000 per annum is the executive support officer for the Council. Approximately two other FTE's support the Council. The Science Council does not have a separate budget for projects or programs, but provides advice on the expenditure of the Innovate WA funding and other science expenditure.

*Question from Hon Dee Margetts: With regard to sustainability unit measures, "Is it expected to include some public formulation of those measures; and, if so, what models for the investigation of the sustainability indicators are being pursued?" Hon D. Margetts also asked for "the kind of information that might be given to*

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*the community during the formulation of that policy. Will there be any public involvement in the formulation of indicators of the progress of sustainability?"*

*Answer:* The Government is currently considering the implementation of sustainability indicators. A number of national and international models have been examined. The process will involve community consultation.

*Question from Hon Barry House: With regard to an electorate office survey, "Is it possible to get a copy of the findings of that survey?"*

*Answer:* The statistical results of the survey are attached. [See below.]

The top table provides the average response for each of the areas about which feedback was sought. The possible responses were along a continuum that ranged from 1, indicating "well below expectations" to 5, indicating "well above expectations". The "overall assessment" was a separate question in the survey and is not the average of the other responses. The second table shows the number of responses in each of the categories ("well below expectations" to "well above expectations") for both quality and timeliness, in each of the 10 areas about which feedback was sought.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT SURVEY YEAR ENDING 30.6.2001

RESULTS SUMMARY

	Quality	Timeliness
<b>Administration of Members Entitlements</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.1</b>
1.1 Electorate Office Establishment	2.9	2.6
1.2 Electorate Office equipment	2.7	2.6
1.3 Imprest travel	3.5	3.4
1.4 Electorate air travel	3.7	3.5
1.5 Air charter and hire	3.5	3.4
1.6 Mobile phone allowance	3.1	3.2
1.7 Lease vehicles	3.3	3.2
<b>Provision of Corporate Services</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.3</b>
2.1 Human Resource Services	3.4	3.3
2.2 Information Technology Services	3.3	3.2
<b>Overall Assessment</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2.9</b>

**SURVEY RESPONSE RATES**

Population = 91

Response rate	53%
Non response rate	47%

**Number of Responses**

		Well Below	Below	Met	Above	Well Above	Total
Electorate Office Establishment	Quality	7	7	21	10	2	47
	Timeliness	7	11	21	8	0	47
Electorate Office Equipment	Quality	8	8	26	8	0	50
	Timeliness	8	14	19	9	0	50
Imprest Travel	Quality	1	1	18	12	4	36
	Timeliness	1	3	17	11	4	36
Electorate Air Travel	Quality	0	0	9	9	2	20
	Timeliness	0	1	10	7	2	20
Air charter and hire	Quality	0	1	6	5	1	13
	Timeliness	0	3	6	3	1	13
Mobile phone allowance	Quality	3	5	23	11	3	45
	Timeliness	1	5	26	9	3	44
Lease vehicles	Quality	1	6	24	17	2	50
	Timeliness	3	5	23	16	3	50
Human Resource Services	Quality	0	5	23	22	2	52
	Timeliness	1	4	24	22	1	52
Information Technology Services	Quality	3	6	16	23	3	51
	Timeliness	5	6	16	22	3	52

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Overall Assessment	Quality	4	10	21	13	0	48
	Timeliness	6	7	22	13	0	48