

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Report of Activities, March 1999 - January 2001 - Report No 50

MR D'ORAZIO (Ballajura) [10.06 am]: I present for tabling the 50th report of the Public Accounts Committee entitled "Report of Activities, March 1999 - January 2001". This is my first report as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, but it is a summary of the work of the previous Public Accounts Committee, carried out under the direction of the former chairman, Mr Max Trenorden, in the final two years of the 35th Parliament. I commend the previous committee members, chairman Max Trenorden, deputy chairman Larry Graham, Mr Chris Baker, Mrs Monica Holmes, Ms Alannah MacTiernan and Mr Ian Osborne, for their hard work in this reporting period, which resulted in the tabling of nine reports, 63 report findings and 62 recommendations. The committee held 35 deliberative meetings and five subcommittee meetings. Formal evidence was taken on 13 occasions and a total of 51 witnesses appeared before the committee, including the Auditor General on three occasions.

The reports tabled by the previous committee during the reporting period covered a range of issues, including the role of the Government in an on-line environment, issues of public administration, the state budget estimates process, community service obligations in the Western Australian public sector and accountability in not-for-profit organisations.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the previous chairman, Max Trenorden, for his close to 12 years of faithful and diligent service to the Public Accounts Committee. Max was known for his enthusiasm, commitment and passionate pursuit of all matters that came before the committee. Over the years Max developed an expertise on issues relating to accountability and transparency, and that expertise will be sorely missed. Apart from that, it was his birthday yesterday, and I extend my congratulations to him. It is clear that the previous committee as a whole took its responsibilities very seriously and worked diligently to demand and ensure public sector accountability.

On behalf of the former chairman, I would like to place on record his thanks to the committee staff, whose professionalism and dedication contributed greatly to the work of the committee. In conclusion, I can assure the House that the newly formed Public Accounts Committee is equally committed to working effectively over the next four years, on behalf of the people of this State, to attain the goals of efficient, effective and accountable government in Western Australia.

[See paper No 446.]