

BUDGET TIMETABLE PROCESS

19. Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON to the Minister Assisting the Treasurer:

I congratulate my erstwhile travelling companion on his elevation to the position of minister and sincerely hope we go on many more fact-finding missions together.

I draw the attention of the minister to the “Treasury News Autumn 2001” which refers to the 2001-02 budget timetable process. On page 15 of the publication there is an indication that approval of the appropriations will be early June. The publication states -

Agencies Submit Budget Statements and Signed Resource Agreements (by end July)

Budget Finalised and Numbers Locked Away (early August)

The publication further indicates that the 2001-02 budget is proposed to be introduced in late August.

- (1) Is this an interim timetable for this transitional year?
- (2) Does the Government intend to revert to the practice of bringing down its budget before the commencement of the financial year in future years or will it bring down the budget two months after the commencement of the financial year as it intends to do this year?

Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS replied:

I thank the member for his good wishes. I hope he will find out some facts while he is on the opposition benches and we will do what we can to answer the questions he will no doubt raise from time to time.

This year, members opposite will be well aware that there has been a change of Government. They will also be aware, I trust, that the Government intends to change the structure of government. As a result of the latter fact in particular, the budget is intended to be brought down in August. However, it is our intention in future financial years to carry on with the practice that occurred in the previous few years.