

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

Seventieth Report — “Annual Report Hearings 2015–16” — Tabling

HON RICK MAZZA (Agricultural) [10.11 am]: I am directed to present the seventieth report of the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations, “Annual Report Hearings 2015–16”.

[See paper 4904.]

Hon RICK MAZZA: The report that I have just tabled advises the house that the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations has concluded the hearings process for the annual reports of agencies for 2015–16. The committee conducted hearings with 26 agencies on 25 and 27 October and 2, 3 and 7 November 2016. The committee was satisfied with the conduct of the hearings, with a fair cross-section of questions asked by members and a large number of matters canvassed. The committee was, again, denied access to strategic asset plans of agencies when these were requested during hearings. As noted in its sixty-fifth and sixty-eighth reports, the committee looks forward to the provision of guidance to agencies by the Departments of the Premier and Cabinet and Treasury on options for releasing information contained in strategic asset plans in the interests of transparency and accountability.

Due to the tabling of this report so shortly after the conclusion of the hearings, owing to the proximity of the March 2017 state election, the committee has been unable to take into account answers to questions on notice not received at the date of adoption of this report.

The committee takes this opportunity to thank members and agencies for the assistance they have provided to the committee during its budget estimates hearing and annual report hearing processes during this Parliament. A central feature of our Westminster system of government is that the executive government is responsible to the Parliament. In undertaking these hearings, the committee is of the view that it has played an important role in holding the executive to account.