

Legislative Council Standing Committee On Estimates And Financial Operations
2018-19 Budget Estimates hearings – Questions prior to hearings



Department of Treasury

The Committee asked:

- 1) Last year, Racing and Wagering Western Australia advised the Committee that its asset investment program spending in Budget Paper No. 2 was based on its 2015-16 Strategic Development Plan. For each Government Trading Enterprise, what year Strategic Development Plan is the information in this budget based on?

Answer:

The 2018-19 Budget is based on the 2018-19 to 2022-23 'draft' Strategic Development Plan (SDP) submitted by each Government Trading Enterprise (GTE) as part of the Budget process. Following completion of the 2018-19 Budget deliberations, GTEs are updating their draft SDPs to align with approved 2018-19 Budget aggregates to allow for submission to the Minister and Treasurer for concurrence and subsequent tabling within the legislatively prescribed deadlines.

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The Committee asked:

- 2) What are some of the implications for your agency from the Commonwealth Budget released on 8 May 2018?

Answer:

There were no direct implications for the Department of Treasury from the Commonwealth Budget. However, the 2018-19 Commonwealth Budget obviously has implications for the State's finances.

Where comparisons are possible, Commonwealth grants to Western Australia are estimated to have increased by a net \$756 million over the five years from 2017-18 to 2021-22 compared to assumptions in the 2018-19 State Budget.

Some of this increase in Commonwealth grants will involve associated additional expenditure by the State Government, and the net impact on the State's finances has not been quantified to date. The increase in Commonwealth grants noted above also does not include any GST impacts from changes to Western Australia's share of tied Commonwealth grants, as this is currently uncertain. Once fully assessed and finalised, impacts from the Commonwealth's Budget will be reflected in the State Government's 2018-19 Mid-year Review.



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Hon Peter Collier MLC asked:

How many Aboriginal people were employed by the agency/department on July 1st 2017 and April 30th 2018?

Answer: Nil (for both dates).

How many Aboriginal people employed by the agency/department were Level 8 and above (including Senior Executive Service positions) on July 1st 2017 and April 30th 2018?

Answer: Nil (for both dates).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'P. Collier', is located in the lower right quadrant of the page.

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Hon Robin Chapple MLC asked:

- 1) I refer to Budget Paper No. 2, Volume 1, Division 12, Part 3, under the subheading 'Significant Issues Impacting the Agency', page 133, regarding Commonwealth funding support for remote housing as described in dot point 3 of 'Commonwealth-State Financial Relations' and ask:

- (a) How will the Government secure continued Commonwealth funding support for remote housing in Western Australia; and

Answer:

The State Government will continue to actively negotiate with, and lobby, the Commonwealth to ensure an appropriate level of ongoing funding is provided to remote housing in Western Australia. In this regard, the Minister for Housing has written to the Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs highlighting the funding gap, and has met to discuss this issue in person in March 2018. The Premier has also recently raised Western Australia's concerns directly with the Prime Minister.

- (b) Should negotiations fail and the Commonwealth Government's funding cuts go ahead, will the state government cover the shortfall in funding to remote housing?

Answer:

Should negotiations with the Commonwealth fail to deliver an appropriate funding outcome for remote housing in Western Australia, the State Government will need to consider alternative funding sources as part of future Budget processes. Any additional State Government funding would be in addition to the significant contribution the State already makes to remote housing and the provision of essential services in remote areas (around \$90 million per year).

- (c) If no, why not and if yes, how much is the state government willing to commit to remote housing?

Answer:

Appropriate funding would need to be assessed as part of future Budget processes.

