



PARLIAMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

SECOND REPORT

OF THE

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES
AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS**

IN RELATION TO THE

1991-92 BUDGET ESTIMATES

Presented by the Hon E J Charlton (Chairman)

2
NOVEMBER 1991

The Standing Committee was established on December 21 1989 with the following terms of reference:

1. There is hereby appointed a Standing Committee to be known as the *Estimates and Financial Operations Committee*.
2. The committee consists of 5 members.
3. The functions of the Committee are to consider and report on -
 - (a) the estimates of expenditure laid before the Council each year; and
 - (b) any matter relating to the financial administration of the State.
4. The committee shall report on the estimates referred under clause 3 by or within one sitting day of the day on which the second reading of the *Appropriation (Consolidated Revenue Fund) Bill* is moved.
5. For the purposes of clause 3(a), the House may appoint not more than 6 members at any stage of its examination.
6. A reference in clause 3 to "estimates of expenditure" includes continuing appropriations, however expressed, that do not require annual appropriations.
7. The committee may initiate investigations under clause 3(b) without prejudice to the right of the Council to refer any such matter.

Members of the Committee:

- . Hon Eric Charlton (Chairman)
- . Hon Sam Piantadosi (Deputy Chairman)
- . Hon Reg Davies
- . Hon Max Evans
- . Hon Bob Thomas

Staff of the Committee:

- . Mr Phil Knight (Advisory/Research Officer)
- . Ms Margaret Griffin (Clerk)

Previous Reports of the Committee:

- . First Report: 1990-91 Budget Estimates: November 1990

Address:

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Parliament of Western Australia

Legislative Council

Second Report

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PART 1

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

1.1 ESTABLISHMENT, FUNCTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE

The Legislative Council resolved on December 21 1989 to establish this committee amongst three new Standing Committees. The committee consists of 5 members and its functions are to consider and report on -

- (a) the estimates of expenditure laid before the Council each year; and
- (b) any matter relating to the financial administration of the State.

Under the resolution of the House the committee must report on the estimates referred by or within one sitting day of the day on which the second reading of the *Appropriation (Consolidated Revenue Fund) Bill* is moved. For the purposes of considering the estimates the House may appoint not more than 6 additional members at any stage of its examination. The reference to "estimates of expenditure" includes continuing appropriations, however expressed, that do not require annual appropriations.

The committee may also initiate investigations without prejudice to the right of the Council to refer any such matter.

The 5 original members of the Committee are the Honourables Eric Charlton, Reg Davies, Max Evans, Sam Piantadosi and Bob Thomas.

Note: The Hon David Wordsworth was appointed in place of the Hon Max Evans for the duration of his temporary absence on Parliamentary business overseas.

On September 11 1991, the House resolved that an additional 6 members be appointed for the purposes of considering the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 1991-92. The members appointed were the Honourables Tom Helm, Barry House, Margaret McAleer, Norman Moore, Garry Kelly and John Halden (the Hon Tom Butler was appointed as an additional member for Thursday, September 19 1991 only).

1.2 SUBCOMMITTEES

Under Legislative Council Standing Order 367 the Committee divided itself into 3 subcommittees for the purposes of considering the various estimates. Each subcommittee was assigned one of the three Legislative Council Ministers having responsibility for the range of Government operations.

It was agreed that the members be assigned to the subcommittees as follows:

Subcommittee A - Hon J M Berinson, Attorney General; Minister for Corrective Services; and Leader of the House

- . Hon Bob Thomas (Chairman)
- . Hon David Wordsworth
- . Hon Norman Moore
- . Hon Garry Kelly

Subcommittee B - Hon K Hallahan, Minister for Education; Employment and Training; The Arts; and Deputy Leader of the House

- . Hon Eric Charlton (Chairman)
- . Hon Margaret McAleer
- . Hon Tom Butler (September 19)
- . Hon John Halden (September 24 & 25)

Subcommittee C - Hon G Edwards, Minister for Police; Emergency Services; Sport and Recreation

- . Hon Sam Piantadosi (Chairman)
- . Hon Reg Davies
- . Hon Tom Helm
- . Hon Barry House

1.3 PROCEDURE ADOPTED

The Standing Committee had previously undertaken to adopt a timetable of hearings prepared by the Committee's Advisory/Research Officer and agreed to meet over 3 days with a specified time for each department/agency (copies of the timetables for each subcommittee are attached to this Report as an Appendix).

The 3 day program enabled each subcommittee to meet with the Chief Executive Officer and other representatives from the departments/agencies for which the particular Minister was responsible. Each of the Ministers (or a delegated representative in some instances of Subcommittee A) remained present during the whole of the subcommittee hearings.

After last year's experience, the subcommittees regarded the meetings as a "fact finding" exercise with the intended purpose of ascertaining from the Chief Executive officer directly, the functions and operation of particular programs and sub-programs. In general, members considered the details provided by the Chief Executive officers to be very useful.

1.4 GENERAL COMMENTS CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES REVIEWED

Over the course of the 3 day program the subcommittees met with 95 separate departments and agencies and brief comments of the major issues and subjects raised are outlined below -

"SUBCOMMITTEE A" - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 1991

Corrective Services (Hansard p1-8)

- . Focus for prison operations for 1991/92 is to complete the move to the Casuarina Prison.
- . Significant reductions in the number of FTEs due to having "overstaffed" Fremantle Prison by 170 extra Prison Officers in preparation for the move to Casuarina.
- . Breach rates on probation and parole basically remain the same.

Commissioner for Equal Opportunity (Hansard p9-12)

- . Two Aboriginal trainee positions are funded by the Federal Government. 90% of the salaries and all of the costs are received back.
- . Bill to be introduced in Parliament to amend the Equal Opportunity Act to include age discrimination. No allocation in the budget to handle complaints.
- . Legislation is intended to "include family responsibilities as a ground of unlawful discrimination".

Small Business Development Corporation (Hansard p12-16)

- . Cognisant of Government regulations on small businesses.
- . Amendments to the Commercial Tenancy (Retail Shops) Act were passed last year.
- . Decline in small business loans.

Public Trust Office (Hansard p16-18)

- . "Issues and Trends" - staff are being pirated by the private sector.
- . Computer hardware purchased last year.

Valuer General's Office (Hansard p18-24)

- . Introduction of a computer system for the valuation of land.

- . Land Tax Assessment Act - process of valuation.
- . Improved efficiency in "Service and Contracts" using the computer system.

Western Australian Electoral Commission (Hansard p24-30)

- . Increase in estimated expenditure is due to the relationship between the State and Commonwealth.
- . Duplication in electoral roll maintenance has been reduced by 75%.
- . Income gained from Non-Parliamentary elections.
- . Improved procedures for issuing postal votes.

Community Services (Hansard p30-37)

- . Reduction in budget due to the closure of Aboriginal country hostels and education facilities being built within the communities.
- . Increase in funding for homeless youths.
- . Reduction in FTEs (102) - functions no longer provided eg. country hostels for education and the amalgamation of administrative structures to provide more internal efficiency measures.
- . Significant amount of resources devoted to Aboriginal welfare.
- . Supported accommodation programs for youth (Street kids).

Office of Government Accommodation (Hansard p37-40)

- . Development of a database that identifies Government owned and leased office accommodation.
- . Identification of over 250 real property assets as either surplus, under utilised or not being used for the purpose they were originally acquired .
- . The full amount allocated last year of \$48.9 million was not spent as rents did not increase as quickly as budgeted (ie. \$4 million not spent).

Royal Commission into the Commercial Activities of Government and Other Matters (Hansard p40-45)

- . Budget framed against an expectation that it will conclude in January 1991.
- . Substantial maintenance associated with high-tech equipment.

- . General Loan and Capital Works Fund is used for the provision of new equipment and security measures.
- . Income from sale of transcripts.

"SUBCOMMITTEE A" - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 1991

Premier and Cabinet (Hansard p46-48)

- . Budget allocation is 6-7% below the level of expenditure for the previous year.
- . Leasing vehicle scheme for members of Parliament reviewed.

Governor's Establishment (Hansard p48-49)

- . Decrease in salary figure due to retirement of the Governor.

Premier and Cabinet (Hansard p49-54)

- . Scheme for voluntary redundancy.
- . Upgrading of electoral management systems and offices this financial year.

European Office (Hansard p54-55)

- . Increase in budget allocation to increase the presence of the Western Australian Government in East Asia.
- . Agriculture exports to Europe.

Public Service Commission (Hansard p55-60)

- . Fourteen major reviews - one included the amalgamation of five departments/agencies which led to the formation of the Department of State Development and another assisted with the implementation of the Government decision for DOCIT to be absorbed within the Department of State Services.
- . Initiatives from Premiers Conference - improve rationalisation and the removal of duplication and overlap between State and Commonwealth Governments.
- . WIRE Report.

Office of the Auditor General (Hansard p61-63)

- . Decision made to move away from using contract auditors and conduct in-house audits.

- . Significant allocation was provided for the one-off purchase of information technology hardware.
- . Reduction in the budget in real terms of @ 5%.

Salaries and Allowances (Hansard p64-65)

- . Review of electorate allowances and parliamentary salaries to be made by October 1991.

Treasury (Hansard p65-71)

- . Increase of \$1.68 million (about 10%) in budget and an additional 26 FTEs due to the amalgamation of several other functions from other agencies.
- . Treasury revenue expected to increase.
- . \$9.1 billion is the total debt including financial agreement debt and the debt of statutory authorities.

State Taxation (Hansard p71-74)

- . Budget decrease of \$2.2 million relates to a reduction in the refund of tax paid the previous year.
- . Compliance programs - audit of registered tax payers and ascertaining who should be registered for payment of tax.
- . Level of unpaid tax relatively low.
- . Approximately 73¢ to collect \$100 - second lowest figure in the country.

Government Employee's Housing Authority (Hansard p74-79)

- . 62% of additional housing commitments for 1990/91 were met.
- . 1,000 houses or 25% of stock is nearing the end of their life.
- . 40 additional houses and 12 replacements are being built.

"SUBCOMMITTEE A" - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 1991

Miscellaneous Services (Hansard p80-95)

- . Item 33: New Norcia Benedictine Community - Government approved a grant of \$350,000 for estimated cost of upgrading the sewerage system.

- . Item 39: Salvation Army-Red Shield Appeal - Reduction from \$30,000 to \$15,000 due to two appeals held in 1989/90 (reverts back to the original formula of \$15,000 for one appeal in 1990/91).
 - . Item 61: Child and Scholars' Fare Concessions-Reimbursement to Transperth - increased patronage and increased concessions provided an increase of \$1.5 million in the budget.
 - . Item 88: Remote Commercial Television Service - \$317,000 increase due to a 3% increase in the Aussat transponder charge on July 1 1990.
 - . Item 94: Telephone and Telex Charges-Central Government Buildings - \$1 million includes salaries, rental and call charges for the telephone switchboards and telex machines at 197 St George's Terrace.
 - . Item 97: Wittenoom Assistance Scheme - \$680,000 (provisional amount) included on the basis of demolishing various buildings and revegetation.
- Note:** Hon J Berinson indicated there had been "a consistent effort over recent years to try to move items formally in the Miscellaneous Services Division into proper program allocations".

State Development (Hansard p95-101)

- . Formed on January 1 1991 by the amalgamation of 5 agencies.
- . "Achievements for 1990/91" - Social Impact Unit.
- . Departmental functions in the north west are responsible to the Minister for the North West.

Minerals and Energy Research Institute of WA (Hansard p102-104)

- . Total grants last year were \$1.57 million.
- . Two scholarships for postgraduate students (\$60,000).
- . An increase in income is expected in 1991/92, from \$991,000 to \$1.5 million (handling more projects).

Energy Policy and Planning Bureau (Hansard p104-107)

- . Function extended to include energy conservation.
- . Budget increase due to the setting up of the energy conservation unit.

- . Budget is not all derived from CRF.

Registrar General's Office (Hansard p107-108)

- . Savings due to in house computerised registration system.

Crown Law (Hansard p108-115)

- . Revenue was down from the confiscation of profits during 1990/91.
- . Lesser degree of review, inspection etc. of Friendly, Co-operative and Provident Societies.

Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration Investigations (Hansard p115-120)

- . 26% increase in complaints over 3 years, with no increase in FTEs.
- . Parliament is responsible for reviewing funding.

Law Reform Commission (Hansard p120-124)

- . Attorney General intends to review the Commission's structure.

Legal Aid Commission (Hansard p124-129)

- . 30% increase in financial commitment for legal aid this year.
- . Law Society's public purposes trust account.
- . Servicing of country areas.

Mines Department (Hansard p129-136)

- . FTEs reduced by 42 (22 closing down of drilling branch, 10 natural attrition and 10 voluntary severance scheme).
- . Reduction in staff in five regional offices - none will be closed.
- . Income generated is returned to CRF - \$300 million Royalty income estimated for 1991/92 and \$59 million from publications, rentals etc.

"SUBCOMMITTEE B" - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 1991

Health Department (Hansard p137-143)

- . Very little in either the estimates or program statements to reflect the regionalisation that has taken place.

- . Regional Directors are being held more accountable in 1991/92 for the total financial management of their defined population.
- . Some grey areas in the PATS scheme.

**Authority for Intellectually Handicapped Persons
(Hansard p143-147)**

- . Areas of overlap between the Ministry of Education and the Departments of Health and Community Services.

WA Alcohol & Drug Authority (Hansard p147-149)

- . More focus on youth and greater co-ordination with Department of Community Services.
- . Establishment of "Sobering Up" Centres.

Employment and Training (Hansard p149-152)

- . Decline of \$2 million in budget (due to SESDA's creation).
- . Group Apprenticeship Scheme.

**State Employment and Skills Development Authority (SESDA)
(Hansard p152-155)**

- . Level of competency - young people coping with training programs.
- . Industry, Employment and Training Councils.

Office of the Family (Hansard p155-159)

- . Expenditure on publications and circulars to the public.
- . Resources of the Family and Community Commission.
- . Plans to establish domestic violence local action committees.

Office of Women's Interests (Hansard p159-163)

- . Newly appointed Office.
- . Expenditure on publications.
- . WIRE is the service arm - receives 20-25% of funding.
- . Domestic violence against children and women.
- . Unclear as to how the funds are dispersed.

Office of Multicultural Interests (Hansard p163-164)

- . Grants have increased from \$30,000 to \$70,000.

Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority (Hansard p164-168)

- . 46% of staff are Aboriginal.
- . Host department for the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs this year for the first time.
- . High absenteeism rate of Aboriginal school children.
- . Training - fringe dwellers.

Aboriginal Material Preservation Fund (Hansard p168-170)

- . Recording, establishing guidelines and future plans of Aboriginal sites.

Planning and Urban Development (including the State Planning Commission) (Hansard p170-174)

- . Small decrease in FTEs.
- . New legislation - to set up a major change in the Department and combine various planning functions.

Land Administration (Hansard p174-179)

- . Relocation of Department to Midland in December 1993.
- . Vietnam project.
- . Charging for auctions.
- . Increased demands on Crown Land from environmental and Aboriginal interests.

Heritage Council of WA (Hansard p179-183)

- . Council created in February 25 1991.
- . Deterioration of Swanbourne Hospital and Montgomery Hall.
- . Swan Brewery site is a contentious issue.
- . Controversy regarding the Railway Hotel in Kalgoorlie.

"SUBCOMMITTEE B" - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 1991

Education (Hansard p184-195)

- . Assistance to families on low incomes.
- . Closure of West Ed Media - effect on country communities.
- . Transfer of Rooney Library to Alexander Library.
- . "Issues and Trends" - need to develop literacy and numeracy levels.
- . School bus inspection - to be transferred to Police Department.

Secondary Education Authority (Hansard p195-199)

- . Funding has been decreased - "one-off" computer purchase last year.
- . Marking of examination papers - change to system.

Hedland/Kalgoorlie/Karratha Colleges (Hansard p199-202)

- . Karratha College constructing Seminar Centre.

Academy of Performing Arts (Hansard p202-204)

- . Only partially funded by the State Government.
- . Some 125 live shows per year.

Office of Higher Education (Hansard p204-205)

- . Increase in budget of @ 5%.
- . Three centres to be set up (on experimental basis) in the Kimberley.

Technical and Further Education (Hansard p205-209)

- . \$128 million provided for skills formation program.
- . Amalgamation of TAFE and Department of Employment and Training this year.
- . Increase in adult literacy problems.

Country High Schools Hostels Authority (Hansard p209-212)

- . Allocation of \$75 million for school maintenance over 2 years.

- . Ongoing request that allocation of funding be made to the boarding facility.

Local Government (Hansard p212-215)

- . Pressure is on local government organisations in non-metropolitan areas.
- . New caravan legislation has been drafted.

Zoological Gardens Board (Hansard p215-219)

- . Blueprint for the next 25 years has been completed.
- . New exhibit - African Savanna to open soon.
- . Status of Windsor Park - expansion of the Zoo.

King's Park Board (Hansard p219-222)

- . New restaurant - cost of redevelopment is \$5 million.
- . War Memorial - safeguards planned.
- . Regular testing for dieback.

"SUBCOMMITTEE B" - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 1991

Arts (Hansard p223-228)

- . Grants program involves more than \$10 million.
- . New State Theatre Company will require funding.
- . Allocation of \$226,000 for renovations to the Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts.

Art Gallery of Western Australia (Hansard p228-231)

- . Launch of the foundation to raise funds in support of the Gallery.
- . 25% increase in attendance figures.
- . Regional Galleries Committee to present a report.

Library Board of Western Australia (Hansard p231-235)

- . Reduction of less than 2% in this year's CRF Funding to Library.
- . Revenue expected to be \$777,000.

- . "Open Day" is planned.
- . Preservation Policy is being developed.

Perth Theatre Trust (Hansard p235-236)

- . Rechabite Hall to be refurbished.
- . Increase in allocation due to the sale of a Belmont property.

Western Australian Film Council (Hansard p236-239)

- . General lack of awareness of the role of the Film Council.
- . Script development funding of \$144,000.

Western Australian Museum (Hansard p239-243)

- . Involvement in discoveries at Lake Jasper.
- . Further development of Perth Cultural Centre.
- . Centenary celebration planned.
- . Air Force Museum - proposed sale of Lancaster.

Environmental Protection Authority (Hansard p243-250)

- . Development of Environmental Protection Policy for air quality in Kwinana.
- . Funding for special emergency items are not built into CRF budget.

Conservation and Land Management (Hansard p250-257)

- . Increased emphasis on dieback programs.
- . Management of National Parks.
- . Bushfire Control on CALM lands.
- . Tree Planting Scheme.
- . Pest Control/Wildlife Management.

Swan River Trust and Waterways Commission (Hansard p257-261)

- . Application for jet boat service on Canning River.
- . Redevelopment of Swan River foreshore.

- . People/industries allowed to discharge under licence.
- . Management of the Avon River.

State Services (Hansard p261-263)

- . There is a need for a clear statement of the actual performance of this Department as it was not evident what functions the 816 FTEs performed, ie. job descriptions.
- . It was not clear how the Department spent the allocated \$49.9 million. A detailed revenue and expenditure statement should be tabled.
- . Reducing staff levels.
- . Business Plan of State Print to be completed by the end of year.

Note: The Committee awaits the proposed Business Plan of State Print and its implementation of improved efficiency for the Division.

Building Management Authority (Hansard p263-266)

- . Impact of DOHSWA's hearing and proposed lifting regulations.
- . Asbestos removal - not from schools.
- . Effect of the 16 kilogram limit lifting regulation.
- . High capital costs for certain properties.
- . Geraldton High School's roofing situation.
- . Client relationship with Government departments/agencies.

"SUBCOMMITTEE C" - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 1991

Department of Consumer Affairs (Hansard p268-270)

- . Seeking a budget of \$6.928 million and have a revenue of just over \$4 million.
- . Revenue is derived from occupational licensing, the Chattel Security Register, part of the Residential Tenancies Fund, and weights and measures services - \$4.2 million last year and \$3.6 million expected this year.

WA Tourism Commission (Hansard p270-274)

- . Encompasses three operating units - Eventscorp, Perth Convention Bureau and the Tourism Commission.

- . Eventscorp was part of WADC and has not changed its role since moving to WATC, ie. attracts or initiates hallmark events to WA on behalf of government.
- . Tourism 10% is international, 15% interstate and the remainder intrastate. However in dollar terms intrastate generates 50% and interstate and international generate 25% each.
- . \$370,000-400,000 is spent on research ie. finding out where each tourist comes from.
- . Government policy to gradually have the regional tourism associations and bureaux become self-sufficient.
- . Reduction in staffing will possibly come from regional tourism offices.

South West Development Authority (SWDA) (Hansard p274-277)

- . Current debt of SWDA is \$18.3 million which is serviced each year by an appropriation from the CRF budget - \$3.045 million in 1991/92.
- . Level of funding for Bunbury Harbour City is \$901,000 in 1991/92 (with a carry-over figure of \$648,466 from last year).

Great Southern Development Authority (Hansard p278-281)

- . The Down Roads Industrial Site was purchased 4 years ago - first occupant is about to start a timber mill.
- . GSDA has obtained funds from sources other than the State or Federal Government, eg. Lotteries House.
- . GSDA has no debt.

Department of Productivity and Labour Relations (Hansard p281-283)

- . The Tripartite Labour Consultative Council to review the Industrial Relations Act and report by the end of this year. This may initiate changes within a number of areas within the Act.
- . Presents and co-ordinates the State's submission to the national and state wage cases.

WA Meat Commission (Hansard p283-286)

- . \$5.6 million liability for employees' superannuation under the previous government superannuation scheme inflated last year's result and will not be incurred again this year.

- . The cash loss made last year of \$2.4 million has been carried over to this year expanding the cash needs for the current financial year to \$4.084m.
- . Capital works program has been cut to \$326,000 - do not expect to embark on any major capital expenditure.

Rural Adjustment and Finance Corporation (Hansard p286-292)

- . Staff increases from 41-55 were the result of the current difficulties in the rural industry.
- . Approximately 2,000 applications are expected for financial assistance in 1991/92. Turnaround time for a loan application is approx 50-60 working days. A new application form will be operating by December 1 to try and alleviate this situation.
- . At June 1991, there were 1,194 clients, 492 of whom were in arrears and 100-150 of whom are under real threat.

Occupational Health Safety and Welfare (Hansard p292-298)

- . Manual handling regulations are important, as related injuries account for 30-50% of all work related injuries.
- . DOHWA have extended responsibilities to include the mining industry.
- . Number of statutory inspections were reduced from 33,000-5,500 - less hazardous equipment is not inspected as frequently, eg. lifts.
- . Overall reduction by 13% in the frequency rate of injuries for both males and females.

WA Industrial Relations Commission (Hansard p298-299)

- . Contingencies of \$1.596 million are operating expenses other than salaries.
- . Extra FTEs are a result of award restructuring.

Bush Fires Board (Hansard p299-300)

- . Cabinet approval has been given to draft a Bill for amendments to the Bush Fires Act to raise the levels of indemnity for bush fire volunteers.
- . Trying to increase the number of staff in the Kimberley area, particularly Aboriginals (so far not too successful).

- . Workers compensation premiums and obligation for past service liability for superannuation caused the rise in contingencies for corporate services from \$394,000 to \$744,000.

"SUBCOMMITTEE C" - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 1991

Goldfields Esperance Development Authority (Hansard p301-303)

- . Goldfields - Pilbara Highway is a possibility, with Kalgoorlie/Boulder as an inland port.
- . Roadhouses on the Nullarbor are suffering due to the air price war.

**Western Australian Government Railways Commission (Westrail)
(Hansard p303-308)**

- . Electrification is almost complete and northern suburbs line is on target.
- . Grain contract is proceeding well. However, ores and minerals have been set back by international market conditions.
- . Land bridge very much a reality.
- . National Rail Corporation.

Department of Transport (Hansard p308-313)

- . Major increase in the budget from \$12.923 million to \$14.689 million.
- . Achievements in microeconomic reform.
- . National Road Transport Commission charges.
- . State fuel levy re Transport trust funds.
- . Fuel subsidies.

Department of Marine & Harbours (Hansard p314-317)

- . Inspectorial role of department.
- . Harbour management and development re Wyndham and Broome, and Curtis Bay.
- . Use of jumbo bags as containers for woodchips.
- . Coastal management program re Dawesville Channel and beach protection work at Busselton.

WA Coastal Shipping Commission (Hansard p317-319)

- . Budget blown out by \$2 million.
- . Surplus of 15 FTEs - redundancies planned.
- . Two services - one to the North-West and Darwin and the other to South-East Asia.
- . Reduction in freight earnings forecast.

Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust (Hansard p319-321)

- . Ferries - reduction in frequency of service.
- . O'Connor bus station.
- . Free transit zone.

Geraldton Mid-West Development Authority (Hansard p321-324)

- . Japanese dry powder pulp company in Geraldton.
- . Geraldton Merino Tannery - successful initiative.
- . Fodder merchant in Greenough.
- . Geraldton marina project.

"SUBCOMMITTEE C" - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 1991

Police Department (Hansard p325-334)

- . Increase in crime versus crime personnel.
- . Albany prisoner release program.
- . Diverter phone system.
- . Traffic enforcement contacts versus RBT.
- . Community policing.
- . Victims of Crime unit.
- . Multicultural intake of policemen/women - Aboriginals, Vietnamese etc.
- . TRG unit.

Police Licensing and Services (Hansard p334-336)

- . School bus inspection.
- . Automatic licence payment machines.

Department of Agriculture (Hansard p336-339)

- . Increase in budget from \$84 million to \$92.6 million.
- . Breeding programs for disease resistant oats, lupins and canola.
- . New options in the beef industry.
- . Building program for the Great Southern.
- . Formation of land conservation districts.

Agricultural Protection Board (Hansard p339-344)

- . Fox eradication program - use of 1080 poison.
- . Continued prevention of starlings.
- . Involvement with the CSIRO.
- . Concerned with the control of locusts, feral goats, and kangaroos.

Fisheries Department (Hansard p344-345)

- . Aquaculture and mariculture.
- . Effect of Kirki and Sankyo Harvest oil spills.

Note: Concern was expressed that the representatives from this Department were unable to answer any questions or provide any details concerning research programs.

Office of Seniors' Interests (Hansard p346-348)

- . Change of name from Bureau of the Aged.
- . Approximately 136,000 Seniors' cards have been issued - total cost is @ \$10.5 million.
- . Plan to publish two issues of the "Care and Respect" newsletter.
- . Research into Alzheimer's Disease.

Office of Racing and Gaming (Hansard p348-352)

- . Decrease of 5% in revenue from licence fees.
- . Liquor licences - smaller outlets.
- . Two-up re Casino-Burswood Island Agreement Act.
- . Racing industry financial assistance from Government.
- . Inspection of restaurants.

Ministry of Sport and Recreation (Hansard p352-359)

- . Liaison between Health Promotion Foundation and the Lotteries Commission in terms of allocation for funds for sporting groups.
- . Evolvement of a Sports Plan for WA.
- . Soccer Federation versus Soccer Administration - funding.
- . Allocation of \$59,000 to the Sports library.
- . Aboriginal liaison officer in Geraldton.

WA Sports Centre Trust (Hansard p359-361)

- . User numbers at the Superdrome have increased by @ 20% - 600,000 people used the facility.
- . Temporary pools were constructed for the World Swimming Championships.
- . Utilisation rate of 53% achieved

PART 2**CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ESTIMATES**

The Committee met with the President, the Hon Clive Griffiths, the Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Clerk Assistant (Administration) of the Legislative Council to discuss the 1991/92 budget estimates.

The President indicated that he was concerned that the original requested allocation of approximately \$1.6 million had been reduced to @ \$1.4 million. It was expected that the \$200,000 shortfall would affect the work of the Council's committees to the point where the Chairmen of the Standing Committees have already established some form of priority for the intended expenditure of the committees for 1991/92.

The Committee feels that Treasury possibly may not have a full appreciation and understanding of the role and functions of the new committee system.

In an endeavour to address the needs and to promote a greater understanding of the new committee system, this Committee recommends that the Clerk of the Legislative Council initiate early talks between Treasury officials and the Chairmen's panel of Standing Committees to ensure that a reasonable level of funding is made available to enable the committees to discharge those functions.

The Committee were advised that the original 1992/92 estimate of \$1,490,000 had subsequently been increased by \$27,059 to employ an additional staff member from mid August 1991. The Standing Committee will further investigate and make recommendations in regard to this matter.

PART 3

CONSIDERATION AND REVIEW OF THE ESTIMATES' PROGRAM

The Committee adopted a similar procedure this year (the second year of operation) to that used during the previous years meetings. It had been previously agreed by members that meeting with all CRF funded departments/agencies was preferred necessitating the 3 day program.

An innovation introduced this year, was the Committee Clerks noting specific questions asked by members, that were taken on notice. This process enabled the Committee Clerks to request the information directly from the department/agency and refer it on to the member concerned. It is intended that a register of all "Questions on Notice" will be maintained for future reference by members or staff and may provide useful background information for future meetings etc.

The three major issues identified in the Report presented to the House last year - the answering of questions by departmental officers, the timetable and consideration of the General Loan and Capital Works budget - were all addressed by the Committee this year, with a view to making the whole procedure more efficient. However, the unavailability of draft unaudited financial statements or audited annual reports was of concern to the members.

3.1 ANSWERING OF QUESTIONS BY DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS

Members were appreciative of the fact that the three Ministers generally allowed the Chief Executive Officers to address the operational "day to day" matters directly and in most cases confined their comments to matters of government policy only. This process certainly led to less time being needed overall for each department/agency, as more questions could be asked within a shorter time frame.

The Ministers also appeared more relaxed with this particular process and at the completion of the 3 days were complimentary of the whole Subcommittee meeting program.

3.2 TIMETABLE

Overall, the original suggested timetable worked quite well, with if anything, a number of departments/agencies being asked to come in ahead of schedule, due to the comments made in 3.1 above.

Subcommittee B was acknowledged as having the heaviest workload that involved the Department of Health and Ministry of Education and their often related affiliates. More time could have been allotted for several of these organisations.

Members recognised that a degree of flexibility will always be inherent in any timetable, along with the fact that some departments/agencies will always be more "topical" and attract more interest than others.

3.3 GENERAL LOAN AND CAPITAL WORKS BUDGET

This year Members were able to ask questions on any aspect of this budget. If an answer was not able to be provided, a question was taken on notice.

3.4 DRAFT UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OR AUDITED ANNUAL REPORTS

Members were of the opinion that the Subcommittees would have benefited from the use of draft unaudited financial statements or audited Annual Reports, as required to be submitted to the Auditor General by August 31 of each year.

PART 4

GENERAL COMMENTS, OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Whilst members generally acknowledged the merit of this year's program the expanded Committee met on several occasions (after the Estimates' meetings) and the following comments and recommendations were made. These have been referred to the Standing Committee for consideration and to assist in the formation of next year's program.

- 4.1 It was moved that all members be asked prior to the scheduling of the Estimates' meetings to provide a "priority list" of those departments/agencies that should be reviewed. The point was made that large spending departments such as Health, Education, Police and Miscellaneous Services should be the only organisation scheduled on a particular day to allow all members to attend and ask questions.
- 4.2 Consequently, it was moved that more time be allocated for the Estimates' meetings, perhaps 5 days from Monday to Friday of one sitting week, approximately 9.00am - 5.00pm each day. This would enable more time to be scheduled (where appropriate) for particular departments/agencies and allow recommendations and comments to be formulated instantaneously at the conclusion of each meeting.
- 4.3 The participation of all members was considered appropriate and the view was expressed of dividing the House into 3 subcommittees, to ensure this occurred. Furthermore, members could be appointed to a different subcommittee each year (if the current concept continues) on a rotational basis to gain a better general knowledge of the operations of the many departments and agencies.
- 4.4 It was moved that the Committee place advertisements in the press (perhaps 2-3 weeks prior to the Estimates' meetings) calling for written and/or perhaps oral submissions from the public regarding the budget allocations and expenditure of departments/agencies. Also, the Committee will consider advertising on a regular basis throughout the year, to inform the public of its ongoing operations etc.
- 4.5 To accommodate the above, the Standing Order that requires the Committee to respond "by or within one sitting day of the day on which the second reading of the *Appropriation Bill (Consolidated Revenue Fund)* is moved", may need amendment to allow the Committee more time to consider any detailed recommendations and comments to be included in the Report to be tabled.
- 4.6 The availability of current Annual Reports for use by members is considered important, particularly in providing necessary background information for specific programs, projects etc.

PARLIAMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEES
THURSDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 1991

TIME	SUBCOMMITTEE A	SUBCOMMITTEE B	SUBCOMMITTEE C
	<p>Chairman - Hon Bob Thomas Minister - Hon Joe Berinson Mr Mark Hilditch (Clerk) Mr Phil Knight (Advisory/Research Officer) VENUE: Legislative Council Chamber</p>	<p>Chairman - Hon Eric Charlton Minister - Hon Kay Hallahan Ms Margaret Griffin (Clerk) Mr Phil Knight (Advisory/Research Officer) VENUE: WANG Building, 1110 Hay Street, West Perth</p>	<p>Chairman - Hon Sam Piantadosi Minister - Hon Graham Edwards Ms Ian Paniperis (Clerk) Mr Phil Knight (Advisory/Research Officer) VENUE: 1 Harvest Terrace, West Perth</p>
10.00am	Corrective Services	Health Department	Consumer Affairs Department
10.30am	"	"	"
11.00am	Commissioner for Equal Opportunity	Authority for Intellectually Handicapped Persons	Western Australian Tourism Commission
11.30am	Small Business Development Corporation	WA Alcohol & Drug Authority	South West Development Authority
12.00pm	Public Trust Office	Employment and Training	Great Southern Development Authority
12.30pm	Valuer General's Office	State Employment and Skills Development Authority (WA)	Productivity and Labour Relations
1.00pm	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
2.00pm	WA Electoral Commission	Office of the Family; Office of Women's Interest; and	Western Australian Meat Commission
2.30pm	Government Employees Housing Authority	Office of Multicultural Interests	Rural Adjustment and Finance Corporation of WA
3.00pm	"	Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority	"
3.30pm	Community Services	Aboriginal Material Preservation Fund	Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare
4.00pm	"	Planning and Urban Development (including the	"
4.30pm	Office of Government Accommodation	State Planning Commission)	Registrar, WA Industrial Relations Commission
5.00pm	"	Land Administration	"
5.30pm	Royal Commission	Heritage Council of WA	Bush Fires Board

PARLIAMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEES
WEDNESDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 1991

<u>TIME</u>	<u>SUBCOMMITTEE A</u>	<u>SUBCOMMITTEE B</u>	<u>SUBCOMMITTEE C</u>
	<p>Chairman - Hon Bob Thomas Minister - Hon Joe Berinson Mr Mark Hilditch (Clerk) Mr Phil Knight (Advisory/Research Officer)</p> <p>VENUE: Legislative Council Chambers</p>	<p>Chairman - Hon Eric Charlton Minister - Hon Kay Hallahan Ms Margaret Griffin (Clerk) Mr Phil Knight (Advisory/Research Officer)</p> <p>VENUE: WANG Building, 1110 Hay St, West Perth</p>	<p>Chairman - Hon Sam Piantadosi Minister - Hon Graham Edwards Ms Jan Paniperis (Clerk) Mr Phil Knight (Advisory/Research Officer)</p> <p>VENUE: 1 Harvest Terrace, West Perth</p>
10.00am	Miscellaneous Services	Arts	Police Department
10.30am	"	Art Gallery of Western Australia	"
11.00am	"	Library Board of Western Australia	Police Licensing and Services
11.30am	State Development	Perth Theatre Trust	Agriculture Department
12.00pm	"	Western Australian Film Council	"
12.30pm	Minerals and Energy Research Institute of WA	Western Australian Museum	Agriculture Protection Board
1.00pm	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
2.00pm	Energy Policy and Planning Bureau	Environmental Protection Authority	Fisheries Department
2.30pm	Registrar General's Office	"	Office of Senior's Interests
3.00pm	Crown Law	Conservation and Land Management	Office of Racing and Gaming
3.30pm	Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations	"	Gaming Commission
4.00pm	Law Reform Commission	Swan River Trust	Sport and Recreation, Rec. Camps and Reserves Board
4.30pm	Legal Aid Commission	Waterways Commission	W/A Sports Centre Trust
5.00pm	Mines Department	State Services	N/A
5.30pm	"	Building Management Authority	N/A

PARLIAMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEES
TUESDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 1991

<u>TIME</u>	<u>SUBCOMMITTEE A</u>	<u>SUBCOMMITTEE B</u>	<u>SUBCOMMITTEE C</u>
	<p>Chairman - Hon Bob Thomas Minister - Hon Joe Berinson Mr Mark Hilditch (Clerk) Mr Phil Knight (Advisory/Research Officer)</p> <p>VENUE: Legislative Council Chamber</p>	<p>Chairman - Hon Eric Charlton Minister - Hon Kay Hallahan Ms Margaret Griffin (Clerk) Mr Phil Knight (Advisory/Research Officer)</p> <p>VENUE: WANG Building, 1110 Hay St, West Perth</p>	<p>Chairman - Hon Sam Piantadosi Minister - Hon Graham Edwards Ms Jan Paniperis (Clerk) Mr Phil Knight (Advisory/Research Officer)</p> <p>VENUE: 1 Harvest Terrace, West Perth</p>
2.30pm	Premier & Cabinet, Executive Council, Governor's Establishment, European Office	Education	Goldfields - Esperance Development Authority
3.00pm	"	"	WA Government Railways Commission
3.30pm	Public Service Commission	Secondary Education Authority	Transport (3.45pm)
4.00pm	Office of the Auditor General	Hedland/Kalgoorlie/Karratha Colleges	Marine and Harbours (4.15pm)
4.30pm	Salaries and Allowances Tribunal	Academy of Performing Arts/Office of Higher Education	Western Australian Coastal Shipping Commission (5.00pm)
5.00pm	Treasury	Country High Schools Hostels Authority	Metropolitan Passenger Transport Trust (5.30pm)
5.30pm	"	Technical and Further Education	Geraldton Mid-West Development Authority (5.45pm)
6.00pm	DINNER	DINNER	N/A
7.30pm	State Taxation	Local Government	N/A
8.00pm	"	Zoological Gardens Board	N/A
8.30pm	Government Employees Housing Authority (8.15pm)	King's Park Board	N/A