



**PARLIAMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**SEVENTEENTH REPORT**

**OF THE**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES  
AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS**

**IN RELATION TO**

**BRIEFING AND TOUR PROVIDED BY THE MAIN ROADS  
DEPARTMENT IN REGARD TO THE CITY NORTHERN BYPASS  
PROJECT**

**Presented by the Hon Murray Montgomery (Chairman)**

**17**

**SEPTEMBER 1996**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS**

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 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 Murray Montgomery (Chairman)  
Hon Bob Thomas  
Hon Muriel Patterson  
Hon Mark Nevill  
Hon Iain MacLean

**Staff of the Committee:**

Mr Vick Kristoff (Advisory/Research Officer)

**Previous Reports of the Committee:**

See Appendix III

**Address:**

Parliament House, Perth WA 6000, Telephone 222 7222

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Committee greatly appreciates the time and effort taken by the Commissioner of Main Roads and his support staff in the conduct of these arrangements.

The Committee also takes this opportunity to thank the Department for its patience and to apologise for any inconvenience experienced as a result of previous unsuccessful attempts to arrange a mutually acceptable meeting time.

Members of the Legislative Council were also invited to attend the briefing and in this regard, the Committee would like to thank the Hons Derrick Tomlinson and Murray Nixon for their participation.

The Committee has for some time now been following the progress made by the Main Roads Department in its pursuit of a workable and cost effective traffic management system aimed at reducing the level of congestion currently facing our major city centre road network. Of particular interest to the Committee was the Department's intention to construct a fully enclosed traffic tunnel within the Northbridge area and the media attention resulting from such intention. With this in mind, arrangements were made with representatives from the Main Roads Department to provide Committee Members and other interested Members of the Legislative Council with a briefing on the capital works pertinent to this area, namely the City Northern Bypass project.

The briefing took place on Thursday, 11 July 1996, with the following Main Roads representatives:

Dr Ken Michael - Commissioner of Main Roads;  
Mr Barry Clarke - Executive Director, Road and Traffic Programs;  
Mr Geoff Watson - Project Director;  
Mr Rob Giles - Acting Director, Corporate Services.

The Committee were briefed on a variety of related matters, a summary of which is provided at Appendix I to this report. At the conclusion of the briefing, Committee Members were provided with an information package, details of which are summarised at Appendix II to this report.

Two matters arising from the briefing which require further attention are:

- The Hon Bob Thomas requested that further information be provided on the volume of causeway traffic bypassing the city. The Commissioner advised that he would be most happy to provide details in support of the Department's analysis which shows that approximately 55% of causeway traffic bypassed the city.
- The Hon Derrick Tomlinson asked whether the Department had considered the impact of soil disposal on residents living within close proximity to the dumping sites. The Commissioner indicated he would pursue the matter to ensure that the contractor's management plan fully covered this event.

These matters will be followed-up by the Committee in due course.

To provide Members with a better understanding of the project scale and the matters discussed, Committee Members were taken on a tour of affected sites. The tour extended from Thomas Street, Leederville through the Northbridge area and onto the Swan River foreshore near East Parade, East Perth. The Department's Display and Information Centre situated at 118 Aberdeen Street, Northbridge was also visited during the tour.

## **CONCLUSION**

From the information provided, the Committee is satisfied that a proper consultative approach and management process has been observed by the Main Roads Department in the conduct of this project.

**APPENDIX I****OUTLINE OF AREAS COVERED DURING THE COURSE OF THE BRIEFING**

1. Background to project.
2. Elements of project.
3. Tunnel construction particulars.
4. Environmental issues.
5. Groundwater levels.
6. Air quality.
7. Contaminated soil and water.
8. Heritage considerations.
9. European heritage.
10. Aboriginal interests.
11. Community implications.
12. Public relations issues.
13. Noise and dust.
14. Impact on buildings.
15. Communication and information.
16. Project milestones.
17. Costs.
18. Benefits to central city area.
19. Restoration and landscaping.
20. Rebuilding.
21. Traffic flow.
22. Transportation issues.

## APPENDIX II

**Each Committee Member was provided with an information package containing the following material:**

1. Brochure - Providing the best roads for the future;
2. Brochure - A City for People;
3. Brochure - City Northern Bypass - Creating a City for People;
4. Map of City Northern Bypass;
5. City Northern Bypass Information Sheets for:
  - (i) Creating a City for People.
  - (ii) Traffic Snarls to Ease on Riverside Drive.
  - (iii) Alternative Options Fully Explored.
  - (iv) Community Choice Favours a Tunnel.
  - (v) Northbridge Heritage Preserved and Enhanced.
  - (vi) Planning for Balanced Transport into the Future.
  - (vii) Bypass Provides the Missing East-West Link.
  - (viii) Bypass will be Open to Traffic in the year 2000.
  - (ix) Work Starts in Preparation for Tunnel Construction.
  - (x) Background to the Additional Funding Program.
6. Publication - Western Roads (October 1995. Vol. 18, No. 5);
7. Media Kit containing:
  - (i) Introduction.
  - (ii) Map of Project.
  - (iii) Scope of Works.
  - (iv) Breakdown of Contract Value.
  - (v) Stage 1 - The Construction.
  - (vi) Stage 1 - The Finished Project.
  - (vii) Groundwater.
  - (viii) Air Quality.
  - (ix) Program of Works Summary.
  - (x) Joint Venture Contractors.
  - (xi) Key Personnel.
  - (xii) Key Personnel Profiles.

## APPENDIX III

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

**Previous Reports of the Standing Committee**

<b>First Report:</b>	1990/91 Budget Estimates (November 1990)
<b>Second Report:</b>	1991/92 Budget Estimates (November 1991)
<b>Third Report:</b>	Leasing of Computer Equipment for the Legislative Council (February 1992)
<b>Fourth Report:</b>	1992/93 Budget Estimates (November 1992)
<b>Fifth Report:</b>	Programme Undertaken During 1992 (December 1992)
<b>Sixth Report:</b>	1993/94 Budget Estimates (December 1993)
<b>Seventh Report:</b>	Public Submissions 1993/94 (April 1994)
<b>Eighth Report:</b>	Review of the Consolidated Fund Estimates 1994/95 (August 1994)
<b>Ninth Report:</b>	The Consolidated Fund Estimates 1994/95 (December 1994)
<b>Tenth Report:</b>	Performance Indicators (December 1994)
<b>Eleventh Report:</b>	Scrutiny of Financial Administration Legislation in Various Jurisdictions (April 1995)
<b>Twelfth Report:</b>	Review of the Consolidated Fund Estimates 1995/96 (August 1995)
<b>Thirteenth Report:</b>	Financial Administration and Audit Legislation in Australia and New Zealand: Implications for Western Australia (August 1995)
<b>Fourteenth Report:</b>	Estimates of Expenditure 1995/96 (November 1995)
<b>Fifteenth Report:</b>	Discussions held with representatives from the Department of Main Roads Western Australia pertinent to the Committee's Terms of Reference (April 1996)
<b>Sixteenth Report:</b>	The Estimates of Expenditure 1996/97 (June 1996)