



REPORT OF THE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

IN RELATION TO THE

ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE 2000/2001

Presented by Hon Mark Nevill MLC (Chairman)

Report 28

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

Date first appointed:

December 21 1989

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 as at the time of this inquiry:

Hon Mark Nevill MLC
Hon Muriel Patterson MLC
Hon Ed Dermer MLC
Hon Simon O'Brien MLC
Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich MLC

Staff as at the time of this inquiry:

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REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

IN RELATION TO THE

ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE 2000/2001

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This is the twenty eighth report of the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations (“the Committee”) and is concerned with the consideration of the estimates of expenditure laid before the Legislative Council.
- 1.2 The estimates hearings provide all Members of the Legislative Council with the opportunity to question a range of Government ministries, departments and agencies invited to attend Committee hearings for the purpose of examining the estimates of expenditure for 2000/2001.
- 1.3 The Committee adopted the following practice in its examination of Appropriation (Consolidated Fund) Bill (No. 1) 2000 and Appropriation (Consolidated Fund) Bill (No. 2) 2000, and the detailed Agency Information in Support of the Estimates:
- (a) During the month of May 2000, the Committee sent out a list of generic questions to a selection of Government ministries, departments and agencies. The questionnaire is set out at Appendix “A” of this Report. The ministries, departments and agencies to which the questionnaire was sent are listed at Appendix “B”.
 - (b) The estimates hearings were conducted between June 6 2000 and June 9 2000 inclusive. As in previous years, during the estimates hearings the Committee focused on a selection of Government ministries, departments and agencies.
 - (c) The Committee observed a Procedure Policy for the conduct of the estimates hearings, a copy of which is set out in Appendix “C”.

2 PROCEDURE

- 2.1 The Committee sought nominations from Members of the Legislative Council regarding the Government ministries, departments and agencies to be called to the hearings. Taking into account Member’s suggestions, the Committee finalised the list of ministries, departments and agencies to be called to the hearings and notified the

relevant Ministers and Chief Executive Officers. The Committee also forwarded the 2000/2001 Procedure Policy to the Ministers and Chief Executive Officers which outlined the manner in which the hearings were to be conducted.

- 2.2 In accordance with the Procedure Policy, Committee Members were provided with the first opportunity to question the various ministries, departments and agencies through the responsible Minister (or Minister representing the responsible Minister). The Committee then requested questions from the participating Members of the Legislative Council. If any Member was unable to ask all their questions in the scheduled period, they were provided with the opportunity to table those questions at the end of the hearing. In the event, the allocation of time to each ministry, agency and department resulted in very few questions being tabled.

3 SPECIFIC MINISTRIES, DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES EXAMINED DURING THE ESTIMATES HEARINGS

- 3.1 Over the course of the four-day program, the Committee examined twenty-one (21) Government ministries, departments and agencies.
- 3.2 On a few occasions during the course of the hearings, Members of the Legislative Council did express disappointment that some invited Government ministries, departments and agencies had failed to ensure that suitably qualified advisers were in attendance to answer questions on all areas of interest. For instance, no representative from Westrail was present at the Transport hearing, no representative from Legal Aid was present at the Ministry of Justice hearing, no member of the board of the Environmental Protection Authority (“EPA”) was present at the EPA hearing, and no representative of the Office of Youth Affairs was present at the Department of Training and Employment hearing.
- 3.3 Apart from the above omissions, the Committee was pleased with the quality of the responses provided by the advisers of the various Ministers that attended the estimates hearings.
- 3.4 The following section provides a point form summary of the subjects that were raised during the estimates hearings.
- 3.5 For further information on department and agency responses to individual subjects, reference should be made to the *Hansard* Record¹ of Estimates Committee hearings from June 6 2000 to June 9 2000.

¹ *Estimates Committee*, Parliamentary Debates (Legislative Council) (Hansard) Thirty-Fifth Parliament, Third Session 2000 June 6 to June 9.

4 SUBJECTS COVERED DURING THE ESTIMATES HEARINGS

4.1 Education (Division 26 - \$1,469,078,000); Country High School Hostels Authority (Division 27 - \$4,204,000); Curriculum Council (Division 28 - \$8,819,000); Education Services (Division 29 - \$165,391,000)

Summary of subjects covered:

- 4.1.1 Expenditure on computers in schools.
- 4.1.2 Education programs for Aboriginal students.
- 4.1.3 Provision of milk to primary school students in disadvantaged areas.
- 4.1.4 Comparison of effectiveness of Catholic school education over State school education with respect to Aboriginal students.
- 4.1.5 Vocational training.
- 4.1.6 “LOTE 2000: New Horizons” policy on teaching languages.
- 4.1.7 Construction of schools in the Rockingham area.
- 4.1.8 Forward estimates for the capital works budget for the year 2001/2002.
- 4.1.9 Power and water costs for schools.
- 4.1.10 Policy on school principals taking leave mid-term.
- 4.1.11 Facilities at Kununurra High School for year 11 and 12 students.
- 4.1.12 Community kindergartens.
- 4.1.13 Funding for literacy and numeracy testing in schools.
- 4.1.14 State and Commonwealth funding for the retention of students.
- 4.1.15 Funding of Internet access in schools.
- 4.1.16 The number of “Work for the Dole” participants working in schools, and the nature of the work that they are performing.
- 4.1.17 The reduction in the number of full time employees (“FTEs”) at all levels of the school system.

- 4.1.18 Leave liability debt.
- 4.1.19 Human resources management systems – cost of the PeopleSoft program.
- 4.1.20 Cost of Goods and Services Tax (“GST”) implementation in schools.
- 4.1.21 Implementation of the “Making the Difference” strategy for identifying students at educational risk.
- 4.1.22 The construction of a new primary school in Albany.
- 4.1.23 The number of school teachers in Government Employees Housing Authority (“GEHA”) housing.
- 4.1.24 The standard of GEHA housing in Cue.
- 4.1.25 The School of the Air.
- 4.1.26 Replacement of school buildings at Exmouth District High School.
- 4.1.27 The provision of dust extraction facilities in mining and pastoral region school classrooms.
- 4.1.28 Home schooling curriculum.

4.2 Fisheries Western Australia (Division 33 - \$17,327,000)

Summary of subjects covered:

- 4.2.1 Regionalisation of Fisheries Western Australia.
- 4.2.2 Workers compensation costs.
- 4.2.3 Fisheries Western Australia’s relationship with the Environmental Protection Authority.
- 4.2.4 Aboriginal aquaculture projects.
- 4.2.5 Tuna virus research.
- 4.2.6 Draft paper on rock lobster policies.
- 4.2.7 Amendment to the West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan.
- 4.2.8 Estuarine commercial fishing boat licence buy-back program.

- 4.2.9 Costs associated with meeting standards set by the Marine Stewardship Council.
- 4.2.10 Ongoing research into pilchard virus and the impact of pilchard mortalities on the ecology of the south coast.
- 4.2.11 National Competition Policy review of the *Pearling Act 1990*.
- 4.2.12 Research into the use of Western Australian agricultural products as feed in aquaculture farms.
- 4.2.13 Onshore fin-fish farming.
- 4.2.14 Enforcement of translocation permits.
- 4.2.15 The costs associated with Fisheries Western Australia's attempts to establish blue fin tuna farming in sea cages off Esperance.
- 4.2.16 The use of animal hides as bait in rock lobster fishing.
- 4.2.17 Translocation policies for Artemia.
- 4.2.18 Cost of motor vehicle leasing.
- 4.2.19 Allocation of funds from the Fisheries Research and Development Trust Account and the Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Trust Account.
- 4.2.20 Marine Reserves.
- 4.2.21 Administrative Appeals Tribunal decision regarding Commonwealth-licensed tuna fishermen fishing off the west coast of Western Australia.
- 4.2.22 Research grant applications by the Marron industry.

4.3 Agriculture (Division 30 - \$102,221,000)

Summary of subjects covered:

- 4.3.1 The impact of imports on Western Australian agricultural production.
- 4.3.2 Motor vehicle leasing costs.
- 4.3.3 Wild *Leucaena* in Kununurra region.

- 4.3.4 The Agriculture Protection Board and the monitoring of weeds, wild animals, plant diseases and pests.
- 4.3.5 The delivery of more extensive agricultural information online via an improved Agriculture Western Australia Internet website.
- 4.3.6 Provision of information to farmers concerning low rainfall and crop alternatives.
- 4.3.7 Financial assistance for dairy co-operatives.
- 4.3.8 Cost of GST implementation.
- 4.3.9 The time taken by Agriculture Western Australia to respond to parliamentary questions.
- 4.3.10 The “AGWEST Safe Food Quality system (SQF 2000)”.

4.4 Contract and Management Services (“CAMS”) (Division 80 - \$14,970,000)

Summary of subjects covered:

- 4.4.1 Common Use Contracts.
- 4.4.2 Ongoing training and professional development of CAMS staff.
- 4.4.3 Loss of key staff and succession planning.
- 4.4.4 Commonwealth Bank credit card arrangements for public sector agencies.
- 4.4.5 Risk management policy.
- 4.4.6 The existence of a Government contract database.
- 4.4.7 Revocation by CAMS of devolved purchasing authorities held by Government agencies.
- 4.4.8 The regional buying compact and the policy on preferential treatment of tenders received from local area businesses.
- 4.4.9 Assistance given to Government agencies by CAMS to improve service and lower procurement costs.
- 4.4.10 Lease finance panel.

4.4.11 Matrix light motor vehicle fleet lease contract.

4.5 State Housing Commission (“Homeswest” – Government Trading Enterprise)

Summary of subjects covered:

- 4.5.1 The ratio of Homeswest housing to private housing applied when determining Homeswest construction programs for suburbs.
- 4.5.2 Expenditure on Aboriginal housing.
- 4.5.3 Keystart program.
- 4.5.4 Costs of implementing the GST.
- 4.5.5 Crisis accommodation.
- 4.5.6 Containment of lot costs.
- 4.5.7 Source of funds for rental subsidy.
- 4.5.8 Continuation of stamp duty subsidy for first home owners.
- 4.5.9 Costs associated with installation of computer facilities in Homeswest houses in Ellenbrook.

4.6 Environmental Protection Authority (“EPA”) (under Environmental Protection, Division 46 - \$20,390,000)

Summary of subjects covered:

- 4.6.1 Efficiencies achieved in performing additional statutory functions without an increase in staff numbers.
- 4.6.2 Southern metropolitan coastal waters study.
- 4.6.3 Peel-Harvey estuary system environmental protection policy review.
- 4.6.4 Memorandums of Understanding (“MoUs”) with other Government departments and agencies.
- 4.6.5 Organochlorine Pesticides Collection Strategy.
- 4.6.6 Perth Bushplan.

- 4.6.7 Aquaculture investigations.
- 4.6.8 West midlands vegetation.
- 4.6.9 Number of FTEs and the type of work performed by staff at the EPA.
- 4.6.10 Policy guidelines for private consultancy work undertaken by EPA Board Members.
- 4.6.11 Liaison with the Department of Conservation and Land Management (“CALM”) in relation to controlled burns.
- 4.6.12 “Waste 2020” project.
- 4.6.13 The impact of the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth).
- 4.6.14 EPA community awareness programs.
- 4.6.15 Air Quality Management Plan.
- 4.6.16 CALM dieback report and Forestry Management Plan.
- 4.6.17 Greenhouse strategy.
- 4.6.18 Kalgoorlie Environmental Protection Policy.
- 4.6.19 The respective role and responsibilities of the EPA and the Department of Environmental Protection.
- 4.6.20 The rate of attendance by Board Members at meetings of the EPA.

4.7 The Office of the Information Commissioner (Division 67 - \$1,224,000)

Summary of subjects covered:

- 4.7.1 Correction of error in Budget Statements with respect to the number of FTEs employed at the Office of the Information Commissioner.
- 4.7.2 Explanation of user charges and fees in operating revenues.
- 4.7.3 GST payments.

- 4.7.4 Trends in applications from those seeking personal information and from those seeking information regarding Government activities generally.
- 4.7.5 Claims of commercial confidentiality by Government agencies when denying access to documents.
- 4.7.6 The wide interpretation of the law enforcement exemption under the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* by Government agencies.
- 4.7.7 External review of applications to the Carnarvon Medical Service and other medical services generally.
- 4.7.8 The absence of external review applications in relation to King Edward Memorial Hospital.
- 4.7.9 The application by Government agencies of a number of different exemptions to deny access to a single document.
- 4.7.10 Consideration of reasons as to why certain agencies do not receive many initial applications or applications for external review.
- 4.7.11 Application of the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* to Government trading enterprises.
- 4.7.12 Applications to Family and Children's Services.
- 4.7.13 Informal resolution of external review applications by the Office of the Information Commissioner.
- 4.7.14 Applications to universities.
- 4.7.15 The length of time involved in processing applications under the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*.
- 4.7.16 Agency compliance with the requirement to provide annual Information Statements.
- 4.7.17 The costs involved in making an application under the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*.
- 4.7.18 The reasonableness of costs imposed by Government agencies in dealing with applications.

- 4.7.19 Review of, and proposed amendments to, the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*.

4.8 Water and Rivers Commission (Division 72 - \$37,008,000)

Summary of subjects covered:

- 4.8.1 Database of contaminated sites.
- 4.8.2 Ground water atlas.
- 4.8.3 Gngangara pine plantation contaminated site.
- 4.8.4 Restoration of river systems and estuaries.
- 4.8.5 The Metropolitan Region Fund and funding for the purchasing of land by the Water and Rivers Commission.
- 4.8.6 Funding for possible future compensation payments pursuant to the Rights in Water and Irrigation Amendment Bill 1999.
- 4.8.7 Busselton Flood Plain Taskforce.
- 4.8.8 Allocation of water rights to mining companies in the Goldfields, and the linkage of the life of a water licence to the active life of the mine.
- 4.8.9 Co-operation between the Water and Rivers Commission and the Centre for Water Research at the University of Western Australia.
- 4.8.10 Provision of information to the public on current work being undertaken by the Water and Rivers Commission.
- 4.8.11 Salinity degradation in the south coast region.
- 4.8.12 The Gngangara Mound and the work being undertaken at developments in Whiteman Park.
- 4.8.13 Kimberley Region Ground Water Allocation Plan.
- 4.8.14 Lake Powell and Torbay Inlet.
- 4.8.15 The use of licence conditions to restrict trading in water rights.
- 4.8.16 Memorandum of Understanding with Government agencies on drainage.

4.9 Transport (Division 42 - \$328,065,000)

Summary of subjects covered:

- 4.9.1 The number and cost of two car train sets ordered for the urban passenger rail system.
- 4.9.2 The feasibility of ascertaining revenues received from each individual train line.
- 4.9.3 The allocation of the Capital Works Budget.
- 4.9.4 The construction of improvements to Albany Highway.
- 4.9.5 Westrail.
- 4.9.6 Main Roads Department costs on Term Network contracts.
- 4.9.7 Upgrading facilities at Derby and Fitzroy Crossing airports.
- 4.9.8 The costs associated with the Ledge Point Boat ramp.
- 4.9.9 Extension of Tonkin Highway to Mundijong Road.
- 4.9.10 Extension of the northern suburbs railway line.
- 4.9.11 "Travel Smart" program.
- 4.9.12 The costs associated with providing free travel to the holders of a senior's concession on metropolitan public transport on Sundays.
- 4.9.13 The provision of additional parking at Whitfords train station, and the current capacity of the northern rail line during peak hours.
- 4.9.14 The appropriateness of an adviser to the Minister for Transport holding taxi licences.
- 4.9.15 The Transperth bus acquisition program and the purchase of gas powered buses.
- 4.9.16 The provision of city "CAT-style" bus services in Subiaco and Fremantle areas.
- 4.9.17 The provision of a south-west corridor rail service.

- 4.9.18 Cost of implementing the GST.
- 4.9.19 The reduction in the number of FTEs across the Transport Department and the out-sourcing of light motor vehicle inspections.
- 4.9.20 Availability of Commonwealth funds for the Kwinana Freeway and Peel deviation.
- 4.9.21 Planned increase in public transport concession fares to 50% of full adult fare.
- 4.9.22 Expenditure on advertising.
- 4.9.23 Upgrading of the railway stations on the Perth to Bunbury rail line.
- 4.9.24 Office of the Rail Access Regulator.
- 4.9.25 Regional Airport Development Scheme.
- 4.9.26 Construction of passing lanes on southern highways.
- 4.9.27 Greenhouse fuels and the strategy to reduce private motor vehicle use.
- 4.9.28 The time spent by Transport officers answering parliamentary questions.
- 4.9.29 The cost of motor vehicles leased by Transport.
- 4.9.30 Transport's leave liability debt.
- 4.9.31 Clarkson railway station.
- 4.9.32 Improvements to Wanneroo Road.
- 4.9.33 Research into offshore protective reefs in the Bunbury-Busselton area.
- 4.9.34 EPA assessment of the Bunbury back-beach.
- 4.9.35 Proposal to construct a surf reef near Bunbury lighthouse.
- 4.9.36 Cost of Cable Station reef at Cottesloe and the Government's exposure to liability for any injuries sustained at the site.
- 4.9.37 The lack of markings on road improvements on Great Northern Highway, Halls Creek.

- 4.9.38 The insistence on work place agreements for Goldfields employees of Main Roads Western Australia pursuant to Term Network contracts.
- 4.9.39 Extensions to Reid Highway.
- 4.9.40 Monitoring of the environmental impact of public transport.
- 4.9.41 Feasibility planning for an underground rail system in the Perth metropolitan area.
- 4.9.42 The allocation of funds for possible compensation payments associated with the construction of the Northbridge Tunnel.

4.10 Health (Division 73 - \$1,889,790,000)

Summary of subjects covered:

- 4.10.1 Implementation of TeleHealth program.
- 4.10.2 Mental health services in the Swan and Armadale areas.
- 4.10.3 Home and Community Care Program.
- 4.10.4 Mental health services for gays and lesbians.
- 4.10.5 Beds available in mental health facilities for children, and whether adult mental health facilities are able to be utilised in the treatment of children.
- 4.10.6 Cost of GST implementation and on-going administrative costs in meeting GST compliance.
- 4.10.7 Availability of renal dialysis services in the Rockingham and Kimberley areas, and in the metropolitan area generally.
- 4.10.8 The future of the Whitby Falls medical facility at Armadale.
- 4.10.9 Armadale-Kelmscott hospital.
- 4.10.10 The relevance of the Health Department's performance indicators.
- 4.10.11 The funds available to the Home and Community Care Carer's Strategy.
- 4.10.12 The requirement that volunteer drivers for Home and Community Care are required to have "F" class licences and undergo regular testing.

- 4.10.13 Motor vehicle costs.
- 4.10.14 The incidence of diabetes in the community.
- 4.10.15 Aged care facilities in Broome.
- 4.10.16 Redundancy payments.
- 4.10.17 Donate West.
- 4.10.18 The labelling of genetically modified food.
- 4.10.19 Access to regional health services.
- 4.10.20 Health intervention and education.
- 4.10.21 Breast screening.
- 4.10.22 Radiation in ground water studies.
- 4.10.23 The impact of mandatory sentencing on the mental health system, and the inability of the mental health system to deal with offenders currently held in prisons who have untreatable mental illnesses.
- 4.10.24 The replacement of volunteer drivers in the Wanneroo area with taxis.
- 4.10.25 The out-sourcing of the finance and accounting functions of hospitals.
- 4.10.26 The existence of special institutions for possibly violent mental health patients.
- 4.10.27 Amoebic meningitis and water testing in remote communities.
- 4.10.28 The replacement of the Dental Hospital as the centre for dental training with the Western Australian Centre for Oral Health.
- 4.10.29 The provision of geriatric oral health services.
- 4.10.30 The level of remuneration for part-time medical practitioners in the Metropolitan Health Service.
- 4.10.31 Chemical poisoning education.
- 4.10.32 Medical imaging equipment costs.

- 4.10.33 Monitoring of air quality.
- 4.10.34 NorHealth 2020 Initiative.
- 4.10.35 The cost of stage 4 upgrade of Derby Hospital.
- 4.10.36 Acquired Brain Injury Plan.
- 4.10.37 Cost of the Metropolitan Health Service's Capital Works Program.
- 4.10.38 Rheumatology facility at Shenton Park.
- 4.10.39 Disposal of land at Shenton Park by the Health Department.
- 4.10.40 The steps being taken by the Government to address concerns raised about the number of hours worked by resident medical practitioners in hospitals.
- 4.10.41 The working conditions of dentists in the Meekatharra-Yalgoo area and the loss of the region's mobile dental care unit.

4.11 Office of Aboriginal Health ("OAH") (under the Health Budget above)

Summary of subjects covered:

- 4.11.1 The advantages of maintaining a separate OAH.
- 4.11.2 The autonomy of the OAH in making grants and the details of grants made by the OAH since July 1 1999.
- 4.11.3 Use of OAH funds to purchase spectator boxes at sporting events.
- 4.11.4 Evaluation of the effectiveness of grants made by the OAH in terms of goals and outcomes.
- 4.11.5 Incidence of HIV/AIDS in the Aboriginal community.
- 4.11.6 OAH funding grants to the Aboriginal Medical Service in Carnarvon.
- 4.11.7 The lack of suitably trained staff at the Carnarvon Aboriginal Medical Service.
- 4.11.8 Improvement in Aboriginal health indicators.
- 4.11.9 Aboriginal mortality rates.

- 4.11.10 Policy guidelines for contracts between OAH and community groups.
- 4.11.11 Funds available to communities to provide Aboriginal health workers.
- 4.11.12 Aboriginal scholarships.
- 4.11.13 Breakdown of the allocation of OAH funds in each region of the State.
- 4.11.14 OAH funding in the Kimberley region, and the dissatisfaction of Kimberley health workers with their working conditions.
- 4.11.15 Derby hospital staff shortages.
- 4.11.16 Nurses' accommodation at the Fitzroy Crossing Health Service.
- 4.11.17 Water quality in Aboriginal communities.
- 4.11.18 Dog control in areas with high Aboriginal populations.
- 4.11.19 The rate of diabetes in Aboriginal males.
- 4.11.20 Consideration of the re-introduction of the free milk scheme for primary school children in disadvantaged areas.

4.12 Commerce and Trade (Division 12 - \$101,617,000)

Summary of subjects covered:

- 4.12.1 The State-wide Telecommunications Enhancement Program ("STEP") and its anticipated benefits to regional areas.
- 4.12.2 Policy guidelines for making grants to industry.
- 4.12.3 Collocation of government and community services in regional communities.
- 4.12.4 The relationship between the Department of Commerce and Trade and Aboriginal Business Development Pty Ltd.
- 4.12.5 Details of grants or loans to Aboriginal businesses over the last three years.
- 4.12.6 Industry assistance payments.
- 4.12.7 Expansion and enhancement of the Telecentre Network and the availability to regional areas of educational programs through the Telecentres.

4.12.8 The relevance of the Department of Commerce and Trade's performance indicators.

4.12.9 Reductions in funding to various development schemes.

4.12.10 The impact of power costs on land charges in the Avon Industrial Park.

4.13 Ministry of Premier and Cabinet (Division 3 - \$74,765,000)

Summary of subjects covered:

4.13.1 Co-ordination of the issue of credit cards to public sector agencies.

4.13.2 Provision of support and facilities for independent members of Parliament.

4.13.3 The BTI Australia Pty Ltd travel contract arrangements applying to members of Parliament.

4.13.4 Breakdown of the costs spent to date on the Barrack Square redevelopment and the Belltower construction project.

4.13.5 Fees to be charged on visitors to the Belltower.

4.13.6 The number of persons who have visited the Belltower project so far.

4.13.7 The upgrading of the members of Parliament's electorate offices.

4.13.8 Impediments to reaching agreement on Native Title negotiations.

4.13.9 The evaluation of anthropological work undertaken in relation to Native Title claims.

4.13.10 The establishment of the Native Title Commission.

4.13.11 The budgeted amount for negotiation and settlement of Native Title agreements.

4.13.12 Status of various ongoing Native Title claims.

4.13.13 Impact on the Native Title negotiation process of the listing of a small number of Land Councils as registered bodies for the purposes of negotiations under the Native Title legislation.

- 4.13.14 Relationship between the Ministry of Premier and Cabinet and the Native Title Commission.
- 4.13.15 Staffing of the Native Title Commission.
- 4.13.16 Negotiations for the expansion of Liquefied Natural Gas sales to Japanese buyers.
- 4.13.17 Anticipated cost of the Miriuwung Gajerrong appeal to the High Court of Australia.
- 4.13.18 The budget allocation for the Government Media Office.
- 4.13.19 Consideration of providing further funding for a full-time research officer for each Member of Parliament.
- 4.13.20 The employment of redeployees in the Graffiti Removal Taskforce.
- 4.13.21 The number of redeployees from Metrobus who are now employed in the Graffiti Removal Taskforce.
- 4.13.22 “Land of Plenty” food and beverage exhibition at Selfridges in London.
- 4.13.23 The advertising budget for the Ministry of Premier and Cabinet.
- 4.13.24 The Safer WA initiative and funding of Safer WA committees.
- 4.13.25 The launch of the Safer WA website.
- 4.13.26 Continuing free access to the State Law Publisher for members of Parliament.
- 4.13.27 Exhibitions and programs conducted by the Constitutional Centre.
- 4.13.28 Cost of motor vehicles.
- 4.13.29 The Matrix light motor vehicle fleet lease arrangement.

4.14 Ministry of Fair Trading (Division 53 - \$7,794,000)

Summary of subjects covered:

- 4.14.1 Reduction of the Ministry of Fair Trading’s leave liability debt, and the associated impact on the Ministry’s ability to deal with complaints regarding finance brokers.

- 4.14.2 The role of the Ministry of Fair Trading in monitoring GST compliance.
- 4.14.3 Funding for the Consumer Credit Legal Service (WA).
- 4.14.4 Evaluation of the computerised register of corporations and the available searching options on the system.
- 4.14.5 Encouraging disadvantaged groups to use the Ministry of Fair Trading's Internet website resources.
- 4.14.6 Monitoring of housing indemnity schemes.
- 4.14.7 Cost to the Ministry of Fair Trading of undertaking National Competition Policy reviews.
- 4.14.8 Increased costs in regulating business arising from the Gunning inquiry and the Global and Grubb inquiry.
- 4.14.9 Education campaigns for Y2K, water filters and Royal Show showbag contents safety checks.
- 4.14.10 The Ministry of Fair Trading's advice to the Minister regarding the decision to undertake the Gunning inquiry rather than a parliamentary select committee inquiry.
- 4.14.11 Fees imposed by the Ministry of Fair Trading for its services.
- 4.14.12 The reason why timeliness performance indicators for the Ministry of Fair Trading have seen a reduction in targets set for service delivery.
- 4.14.13 Proposals for legislative change.
- 4.14.14 GST input credits.
- 4.14.15 Problems arising in remote areas from the imposition of state-wide standard conditions in hire car contracts.
- 4.14.16 Number of complaints received on the Ministry of Fair Trading's advice line.
- 4.14.17 The number of complaints received by the Ministry of Fair Trading regarding GST over-charging.
- 4.14.18 Delays experienced in cases before the Builders' Registration Board and the Builders' Disputes Committee.

4.14.19 The reason why client awareness performance indicators established by the Ministry of Fair Trading have a lower target set for general public clients than that set for business clients.

4.15 Western Australian Department of Training and Employment (Division 74 - \$242,962,000)

Summary of subjects covered:

4.15.1 The funding of skills centres; the proportion which is funded by the Australian National Training Authority and that which is State funded.

4.15.2 The funding of Vocational Education and Training (“VET”) in schools.

4.15.3 Policy on the replacement of hardware and software used in information technology courses in the TAFE sector.

4.15.4 The number of applications for computer hardware/software by TAFE colleges that have been rejected by the Department of Training and Employment since July 1 1999.

4.15.5 State Training Strategy.

4.15.6 Training provided in the horticulture and viticulture areas of the south-west.

4.15.7 Funding for the Carine College Arts course, and for vocational art courses across all colleges generally.

4.15.8 The differentiation in fee structure between recreational and vocational art courses.

4.15.9 The Aboriginal Vocational Education and Training and Employment Policy.

4.15.10 Activities undertaken in remote areas in conjunction with the Department of Commerce and Trade.

4.15.11 Apprenticeship and trainee levels, and the reasons for the plateau in total apprenticeship numbers in recent years.

4.15.12 Studies as to why trainees do not finish their courses.

4.15.13 The waiver of the three year mandatory apprenticeship term for certain apprentices.

- 4.15.14 Cost variations for similar courses at different TAFE colleges.
- 4.15.15 Grants to local government authorities for the construction of skate park facilities.
- 4.15.16 The Office of Youth Affairs.
- 4.15.17 Australian Taxation Office ruling with respect to apprentice and trainee wages and the imposition of the GST.
- 4.15.18 Number of computers requiring replacement.
- 4.15.19 Motor vehicle costs.
- 4.15.20 Training records system.
- 4.15.21 The cost of GST implementation and the continuing administrative resourcing requirements of GST compliance.

4.16 Police Service (Division 55 - \$440,406,000)

Summary of subjects covered:

- 4.16.1 Hilton Police Station and the resourcing implications of small police stations generally.
- 4.16.2 Decision-making as to where multanova speed cameras are positioned.
- 4.16.3 Multanova speed camera locations over the last twelve months.
- 4.16.4 Identification of drug related fatal crashes.
- 4.16.5 Turnover of staff in the Police Service.
- 4.16.6 The number of police officers that leave the Police Service for a career change rather than retire through age or ill health.
- 4.16.7 Internal discipline of police officers, and the policy of permitting officers to resign rather than face charges for misconduct.
- 4.16.8 The release of police officers from administrative duties to operational duties.
- 4.16.9 The average cost of operating multanova speed cameras compared to the cost of police officers performing the function.

- 4.16.10 Measures taken to reduce the number of fatal road accidents in the country.
- 4.16.11 Superannuation costs.
- 4.16.12 Contracts between the Police Service and the Forensic Behavioural Investigative Services firm.
- 4.16.13 The number of investigators within the Professional Standards Group's Public Sector Unit.
- 4.16.14 Clearance rate of property offence investigations.
- 4.16.15 Average time taken to respond to urgent telephone calls for police assistance.
- 4.16.16 The number of police officers in each district and station.
- 4.16.17 Ratio of police officers to population in each district.
- 4.16.18 Breakdown of allocation of new and future FTEs in current and coming financial years according to district.
- 4.16.19 Number of FTEs in the Joondalup police district.
- 4.16.20 National DNA database, and the use of DNA investigative tools.
- 4.16.21 Proposed Criminal Investigations Bill.
- 4.16.22 Training of police officers in forensic science.
- 4.16.23 Cost, progress and completion date of the construction of Police Operations Support Centre in Midland.
- 4.16.24 Expected completion date of the South Perth-Victoria Park Police Station.
- 4.16.25 Asset sales, including the Maylands Police Academy site.
- 4.16.26 Planned disposal of Police Headquarters site in East Perth, initially on a sale and lease-back arrangement.
- 4.16.27 Revenue from firearms licensing infringements.
- 4.16.28 Road Trauma Trust Fund figures and funding from the Office of Road Safety.
- 4.16.29 Vehicle Immobiliser Scheme.

- 4.16.30 GST costs.
- 4.16.31 Motor vehicle costs
- 4.16.32 Matrix motor vehicle fleet leasing arrangement.
- 4.16.33 Reduction in size of the motor vehicle fleet through improved efficiencies in disposal arrangements.
- 4.16.34 Domestic violence community safety education.
- 4.16.35 Measures taken to reduce the incidence of drink-driving.
- 4.16.36 The number and cost of school-based police officers.
- 4.16.37 The number of police officers assigned to the Vice Squad.
- 4.16.38 Prostitution Bill 1999.
- 4.16.39 Upgrade of the statewide computer network and cost of Police Service computers.
- 4.16.40 Morale of the Police Service arising from negative media reports.
- 4.16.41 Availability on Police Service Internet website of crime statistics for each district.
- 4.16.42 Complaints received by the Child Abuse Unit.
- 4.16.43 Child pornography charges.
- 4.16.44 Incidence of child prostitution.
- 4.16.45 Staffing of the Child Abuse Unit.
- 4.16.46 The success of the cautioning system.
- 4.16.47 Human resource implications of the Protective Custody Bill 2000.

4.17 Ministry of Justice (Division 63 - \$413,276,000)

Summary of subjects covered:

- 4.17.1 Upgrade of Bandyup Women's Prison.

- 4.17.2 Current design and modified design capacity of Bandyup Women's Prison.
- 4.17.3 Alternatives to Pyrtton site for future women's prison.
- 4.17.4 Recruitment and funding for Aboriginal Mentor Scheme.
- 4.17.5 Rate of re-offending amongst juveniles, and why it is much higher than for adults.
- 4.17.6 The Juvenile Justice Team program and its success in diverting juvenile offenders away from detention.
- 4.17.7 The number of juveniles being imprisoned.
- 4.17.8 Juvenile records not being counted when recidivism rates are assessed for young adult offenders.
- 4.17.9 Budget allocation for judges' superannuation.
- 4.17.10 The continuing backlog in civil and criminal cases in all courts.
- 4.17.11 The Genisys (generic case management system).
- 4.17.12 Use of videoconferencing and video link technology in courts to enable witnesses to appear without travelling great distances.
- 4.17.13 Legal Aid funding, and the main reasons given for denying legal aid applications.
- 4.17.14 South Hedland Justice Complex.
- 4.17.15 *Dietrich* applications and ex gratia payments to unrepresented defendants in criminal proceedings.
- 4.17.16 Deaths in custody and the "At Risk Prisoner Management Strategy".
- 4.17.17 The results of predictive modelling and simulation on the future prison population.
- 4.17.18 The piloting of a "drug free" unit at Nyandi Prison.
- 4.17.19 Naltrexone project in the treatment of opiate dependent prisoners.
- 4.17.20 Motor vehicle costs.

- 4.17.21 Matrix motor vehicle fleet leasing arrangement.
- 4.17.22 Court security and custodial services contract with Corrections Corporation of Australia Pty Ltd.
- 4.17.23 The number of permanent and casual staff employed by Corrections Corporation of Australia Pty Ltd and a comparison with current FTE levels undertaking the task.
- 4.17.24 Interim inspectorate and the commencement date of the independent Inspector of Custodial Services.
- 4.17.25 Whether future prisons in Broome and the eastern Goldfields will be privately operated.
- 4.17.26 Domestic Violence Court in Joondalup.
- 4.17.27 The Office of the Public Trustee, and its proposed operation on a commercial basis.
- 4.17.28 Expenditure on consultants in preparing a report on grievance procedures.
- 4.17.29 Concerns about the solvency of Corrections Corporation of Australia Pty Ltd following the restructure of Corrections Corporation of America Pty Ltd.
- 4.17.30 Concerns regarding breaches of security by Corrections Corporation of Australia Pty Ltd in its operations at the Metropolitan Women's Correctional Centre in Victoria.
- 4.17.31 Progress in the development of an accurate integrated statistics gathering system by the Ministry of Justice.
- 4.17.32 The number of juveniles imprisoned under mandatory sentencing laws for home burglary.

4.18 Anti-Corruption Commission ("ACC") (Division 4 - \$9,959,000)

Summary of subjects covered:

- 4.18.1 The number of criminal charges laid by the ACC.
- 4.18.2 The number of briefs forwarded to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions ("DPP") in 1999/2000, and the number that were not proceeded with due to a decision of the DPP.

- 4.18.3 The number of staff employed by the ACC as investigators.
- 4.18.4 The accumulated backlog of cases.
- 4.18.5 Additional funding needs in the area of education and prevention work with agencies.
- 4.18.6 Explanation of various terms used in output measures relating to quantity.
- 4.18.7 Consideration of the use of independent prosecutors by the ACC.
- 4.18.8 The number, and categorisation according to seriousness, of allegations received by the ACC.
- 4.18.9 Recent and future legislation which will enable improvements in surveillance technology and investigative techniques.
- 4.18.10 The average cost of investigating a matter.

4.19 Office of Public Sector Management (under Premier and Cabinet above)

Summary of subjects covered:

- 4.19.1 The number and cost of corporate credit cards in the public sector.
- 4.19.2 Policy on the allocation of motor vehicles in the public sector.
- 4.19.3 Policy on the use of motor vehicles by public sector employees after work hours.
- 4.19.4 Excess motor vehicles in the public sector.
- 4.19.5 Matrix motor vehicle fleet leasing arrangement.
- 4.19.6 Management of re-deployees in the public sector.
- 4.19.7 Public sector traineeship program.
- 4.19.8 Measures taken to address problems caused by an aging public sector workforce.
- 4.19.9 Renewal of short term employment contracts in the public sector.
- 4.19.10 Leadership Enhancement Program for senior executives in the public sector.

- 4.19.11 Cost of leadership and financial management programs for senior officers in the public sector.
- 4.19.12 Monitoring of the number of public sector officers in acting positions.
- 4.19.13 Cost of the Premier's Awards for Excellence in Public Sector Management.
- 4.19.14 Proposals to reduce the number of Government agencies by amalgamation.
- 4.19.15 Measures taken to increase the employment level of Aboriginals in the public sector.
- 4.19.16 Cost of Personal Merit Allowance for CEOs.
- 4.19.17 Procedure for deciding which CEOs receive a Personal Merit Allowance.
- 4.19.18 Metrobus redeployees.
- 4.19.19 Redeployees working in the Graffiti Taskforce.
- 4.19.20 Redeployees of Government trading enterprises.
- 4.19.21 Cost of public sector motor vehicle fleet.
- 4.19.22 Matrix motor vehicle fleet leasing arrangement.

4.20 Central Metropolitan College of TAFE ("CMC") (partially under Western Australian Department of Training and Employment above)

Summary of subjects covered:

- 4.20.1 CMC's operating loss.
- 4.20.2 Updating of hardware and software used by CMC in information technology courses.
- 4.20.3 Requests for new computer equipment by CMC training staff.
- 4.20.4 Basic adult literacy courses, and the provision of places in such courses for offenders undertaking community sentences.
- 4.20.5 CMC's reduction in workplace injuries.
- 4.20.6 CMC's internal grievance procedure.

- 4.20.7 The Centre for Business Solutions, and the costs associated with the lease of premises at 111 St Georges Terrace.
- 4.20.8 The Western Australian School of Management and Business and its revenue targets.
- 4.20.9 The Oil and Gas Training Centre and the Petroleum Industry Training System Model.
- 4.20.10 The percentage of TAFE students who are school leavers, and the percentage of TAFE students who chose TAFE as their first choice for post-secondary education.
- 4.20.11 Explanation of the “Module Load Output Rate”, and the success rates of TAFE students generally.
- 4.20.12 The design of CMC’s Annual Report 1998-1999.

4.21 Office of the Auditor General (“OAG”) (Division 7 - \$7,192,000)

Summary of subjects covered:

- 4.21.1 Common Use Contracts.
- 4.21.2 General trend of leasing rather than purchasing by the public sector.
- 4.21.3 Relevance of performance indicators for the public sector.
- 4.21.4 Summary of upcoming OAG projects and inquiries.
- 4.21.5 OAG computers in schools inquiry.
- 4.21.6 OAG Internet security inquiry.
- 4.21.7 Workload and staff resources at the OAG.
- 4.21.8 Involvement of Parliament in determining future subjects of inquiry by the OAG.
- 4.21.9 Cost of GST implementation.
- 4.21.10 Cost of reviewing major asset sales such as AlintaGas and Westrail freight.
- 4.21.11 Measures taken to improve occupational health and safety statistics at OAG.

4.21.12 Pass rates and performance indicators at Western Australian universities.

4.21.13 Trends in the use of commercial in-confidence clauses in contracts between public sector agencies and the private sector.

**HON SIMON O'BRIEN MLC
ACTING CHAIRMAN**

June 21 2000

APPENDIX "A"**Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations****Questionnaire for Government Agencies – 2000 Estimates Hearings*****Leave liability***

Circular to Ministers No 5/98 required all agencies to reduce their leave liability by 10 per cent compared to the figure published in the 1998/1999 budget papers by no later than 30 June 1999.

1. (a) *Did your Agency meet the 10% reduction target by 30 June 1999?*
(b) *If not, what percentage reduction did your Agency achieve?*
2. *What was your Agency's total leave liability debt as at 30 June 1999?*
3. *What do you estimate your Agency's total leave liability debt will be as at 30 June 2000?*
4. *What long-term strategies has your Agency developed to reduce its leave liability debt?*

Contract Staff

5. *How many permanent officers do you have in your Agency?*
6. *Since 30 June 1999 how many distinct persons have been employed by your Agency to undertake tasks by way of contracts of less than 12 months' duration?*
7. *Since 30 June 1999 how many individual contracts of less than 12 months' duration have been entered into by your Agency (including extensions of existing contracts for further periods of less than twelve months)?*
8. *How many persons have ceased employment contracts with your Agency (which were not renewed) since 30 June 1999?*
9. (a) *How many persons have commenced employment contracts with your Agency since 30 June 1999?*
(b) *Do you expect a similar staff turnover for the 2000/2001 financial year?*
10. *How many officers of your Agency are employed under Workplace Agreements?*

Out-sourcing

11. *What functions of your Agency have been out-sourced since 30 June 1999? Please provide details of the costs involved.*
12. *What functions does your Agency plan to out-source in the 2000/2001 financial year?*

Redeployees

13. (a) *How many officers is your Agency currently seeking to redeploy within the public sector?*
(b) *How many of these officers are registered with the Office of Redeployees, Ministry of Premier and Cabinet?*
14. (a) *How many officers of your Agency have been successfully redeployed since 30 June 1999?*
(b) *How many of these officers were redeployed through the Office of Redeployees, Ministry of Premier and Cabinet?*

Motor Vehicle Fleet

15. (a) *How many motor vehicles did your Agency operate as at 30 June 1999?*
(b) *What was the total cost to your Agency for motor vehicles for the 1998/1999 financial year?*
16. (a) *How many motor vehicles does your Agency currently operate?*
(b) *What is the estimated cost to the Agency for motor vehicles for the 1999/2000 financial year?*

GST Implementation

17. *What is the estimated total cost of GST implementation for your Agency as at 30 June 2000?*

Expenditure on Non-Statutory Functions

18. *Which statutory functions of your Agency have experienced increased expenditure (greater than 10%) over the last 2 financial years (1998/1999 - 1999/2000)?*
19. *Which statutory functions of your Agency have experienced reduced expenditure (less than 10%) over the last 2 financial years (1998/1999 - 1999/2000)?*
20. *What are the major items of expenditure of your Agency for the 2000/2001 financial year which are not directly connected with the fulfilment of your Agency's statutory functions?*

Cost of Answering Parliamentary Questions

21. *How many parliamentary questions (both houses) have been processed by your Agency since 30 June 1999?*

22. *Approximately how many hours have been spent by officers of your Agency processing parliamentary questions since 30 June 1999?*
-

APPENDIX "B"

List of Government ministries, departments and agencies to whom the generic questionnaire set out in Appendix "A" was sent in May 2000:

Aboriginal Affairs Department
Agriculture Western Australia
Office of the Auditor General
Department of Commerce and Trade
Department of Conservation and Land Management
Contract and Management Services
Education Department
Department of Environmental Protection
Ministry of Fair Trading
Fire and Emergency Services Authority
Fisheries Western Australia
Health Department
Ministry of Housing
Department of Land Administration
Main Roads Western Australia
Department of Minerals and Energy
Police Service
Ministry of Premier and Cabinet
Department of Training and Employment
Department of Transport
Treasury Department
Water and Rivers Commission

APPENDIX “C”

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND
FINANCIAL OPERATIONS**

2000/2001 ESTIMATES HEARINGS PROCEDURE POLICY

1. Circulation of invitations and procedural guidelines prior to the hearings

The Committee will issue invitations and procedural guidelines as follows:

(a) Agency representatives

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the responsible Minister for each agency included in the review will be issued invitations to attend the relevant hearing approximately one month in advance of the hearing date. Where however, conditions dictate otherwise, a shorter time frame may be necessary. Should this occur, the Committee will endeavour to advise the CEO and Minister at the earliest possible opportunity.

(b) Members of the Legislative Council

Members of the Legislative Council will be issued invitations to attend the hearings approximately one month in advance of the date of the hearing. Where however, conditions dictate otherwise, a shorter time frame may be necessary. Should this occur, the Committee will endeavour to advise the Members at the earliest possible opportunity.

Once the Committee has determined which agencies will appear before it, Members of the Legislative Council will be informed of the agencies to be reviewed.

2. Witness Information Sheet

Ministerial advisors appearing before the hearings will be requested to complete a ‘Witness Information Sheet’ (copy attached at appendix A). All the information sought is necessary to allow Hansard to meet various requirements involved in producing a final and correct document.

3. Order of questions

Although the Chairman must give priority to Committee members to ask questions, every endeavour will be made to facilitate the asking of questions by other members (subject to time constraints).

Calling of questions is at the Chairman's discretion.

Questions must relate to the budget estimates 2000/2001 or to the content of the departments/agencies annual report for the current financial year. The Chairman has the discretion to call a question out of order.

Questions will only be permitted during the time allocated for the hearing.

At the Chairman's discretion, questions outstanding at the close of the hearing may be directed to the department or agency in question in writing through the Committee. Outstanding questions should be handed to the Committee Clerk (CC) at the close of each hearing for forwarding to the agency via the responsible Minister. Response to the question should be forwarded to the CC within five working days of receipt of the question.

The Procedure for handing up questions on notice:

- questions must be legible (**preferably typed and on 3.5" floppy disk**), and clearly identify:
 1. the author of the question; and
 2. the intended recipient (agency/department/individual)
- comply in all other respects with these guidelines.

4. Procedure for asking questions

During the hearings, questions should be directed through, and be acknowledged by, the Chairman appointed for the particular hearing.

5. Type of questions permitted

Questions can be in regard to any matter relating to the financial administration of the State and should not:

- be hypothetical; or
- be questions regarding Government policy, unless directed towards the Minister (SO331).

6. Questions taken on notice

Questions that are asked during the hearing and that agency or departmental representatives are unable to answer during the hearing will be taken on notice.

Following the hearing, the CC will forward a copy of the question as it appears in the uncorrected Hansard to the office of the Minister responsible for the relevant agency. The responsible Minister must then on-forward such question to the relevant agency CEO.

Agencies responding to questions on notice should do so through their responsible Minister.

Agencies are asked to respond to questions on notice in the manner outlined in Appendix B.

The Agencies response to the questions on notice, and other supplementary information, should be provided in **both** hard copy and disc form, preferably WordPerfect 6.1. Any queries in this regard should be directed to the Hansard Sub-Editor, Mr Morey Grafton, by telephone on 9222 7266 or facsimile on 9222 7813.

Responses should be received by the CC within five working days of the CC's initial forwarding date of questions to the responsible Minister.

In limited circumstances where there are exceptional grounds, the Committee in its discretion may grant a short extension of time to respond. The responsible Minister must immediately advise the Committee if a delay is anticipated and the reason for the delay. The Committee in its discretion will advise a new response date.

APPENDIX A

**Committee Hearings
Information for Witnesses**

Important: Please read the following notes before giving evidence.

Full Name: (Title) (First Name) (Last Name)

Title of Position Held:

Business Name and Address:

Telephone: **Fax:**

Signature: **Date:**

Introduction

1. A committee hearing is a proceeding in Parliament. As such, you must not deliberately mislead the committee and you must respect the members of the committee and the committee's orders and procedures. If you do not comply with these requirements, you may be subject to legal penalties.

What happens at a hearing?

2. Committees are made up of members of Parliament. Usually there are 3 - 5 members of a committee.
3. You will be escorted to the committee's meeting room by one of the committee's staff. After you are seated, the chairperson of the committee will ask you:
 1. to state your full name, address and the capacity in which you appear before the committee; and
 2. if you have read and understood these notes.
4. The chairperson may invite you to make an opening statement to the committee.
5. The chairperson will then ask you a series of questions, following which other members of the committee may ask you more questions. If other members of the Legislative Council are present, they may also ask you questions. With limited exceptions (discussed below) you must answer questions you are asked.
6. The chairperson may invite you to make any additional comments you consider necessary.

Parliamentary privilege

7. Parliamentary privilege provides protection for what is said in Parliamentary proceedings, so that what is said in such proceedings may not be the basis of a suit in defamation. However, it is only the authorised Hansard report, or that of an accredited media reporter, which is protected when what is said in the proceeding is related outside the confines of Parliament. Similarly, Parliamentary privilege means that what you have said to a committee cannot be used against you in a subsequent related proceeding in a court or tribunal. The purpose of Parliamentary privilege is to enable parliamentarians and witnesses to speak candidly without fear of legal repercussions.

Your entitlements

8. In giving your evidence you are entitled to:
 - (a) access to relevant documents;
 - (b) raise any matter of concern to you relating to evidence to be given or documents produced;

- (c) benefit of counsel¹;
- (d) apply for all or part of your evidence to be given in private session and for an order restricting publication of, or access to, that evidence;
- (e) decline to answer a question or produce a document on the grounds that the question is unlawful or outside the scope of the matters in issue or under inquiry;
- (f) be informed before your evidence is given that if part of it might incriminate you or another person, that fact should be made known to the committee before that part is actually given;
- (g) know of and, if desired, rebut any allegations made against you whether or not those allegations amount to criminal conduct or dealing;
- (h) a reasonable opportunity to correct errors in a transcript of evidence; and
- (I) provide supplementary or new evidence.

Is your evidence public or private?

9. Most hearings of standing committees are public. In other words, members of the public and the media may attend the hearings and the proceedings may be reported. In contrast, most hearings of select committees are private, which means that members of the public and the media may not attend them. If you are uncertain as to whether your hearing is private or public, ask the committee's staff before the hearing or the Chairman of the committee before you start giving evidence.
10. Note that, even if your evidence is given to a committee in private session, or your evidence is subject to an order restricting publication of it or access to it, the committee can still report your evidence to the Legislative Council if it considers it necessary to do so. This means that even your private evidence may become public.

If you are a public servant

11. Public servants appearing before a committee in that capacity are entitled to refuse to answer questions on matters of policy. The committee must direct all such questions to the responsible Minister.

You must not disclose evidence given in private session

12. You must not publish or disclose any evidence given to a committee in private session unless that evidence has been reported to the Legislative Council in a public document. Premature publication or disclosure may:
 1. constitute a contempt of the Legislative Council; and
 2. mean that the publication or disclosure of the relevant material is not subject to parliamentary privilege.

Transcript of your evidence

13. A transcript of your evidence will be made and sent to you for correction of typographical and transcription errors. You should not discuss your evidence until the Hansard report is finalised. Please see the letter which will accompany the uncorrected transcript in this regard.

Threats or intimidation

14. If you have been threatened or intimidated by any person in respect of giving your evidence to the committee, you should immediately inform the committee or one of its staff.

¹

This means that you are entitled to have counsel (a legal or other adviser) present with you to advise you. It does not mean that you are entitled to be represented by counsel who responds to the committee on your behalf.

APPENDIX B

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Ministerial officers should follow the format shown below when supplying questions on notice related supplementary information.

Tuesday, 13 May 1999

Division 25: Ministry of Whatever

Question: Hon A.B. Brown (not "the member for West Metropolitan") asked for a list of officers and their positions . . .

Answer: Subprogram 1.2 does not include staffing and running costs for the latest version of the ministry's operational . . .

Or -

Tuesday, 13 May 1999

Division 25: Ministry of Whatever

Question: Hon A.B. Brown (not "the member for West Metropolitan") asked -

- (1) How many officers work on subprogram 1.2?*
- (2) In which areas of the State are officers located?*
- (3) When will the work that is expected to cost \$24 000 be completed?*

Answer:

- (1)-(2) Subprogram 1.2 has 14 officers in total, of which three are located in Derby, five are located in Broome, two are . . .It does not include staffing the new offices in the more northern areas of . . .and so on.*
- (3) It is expected that . . .*