



# **Community Development and Justice Standing Committee**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2001-2002**

**Report No. 1**  
**In the Thirty-Sixth Parliament**

**2002**

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# **Community Development and Justice Standing Committee**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2001-2002**

### **Report No. 1 In the Thirty-Sixth Parliament**

Presented by:  
**David Templeman, MLA**  
Laid on the Table of the Legislative Assembly  
on Thursday, 26 September 2002



## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<b>Chair</b>	David Templeman, MLA Member for Mandurah
<b>Deputy Chair</b>	Larry Graham, MLA Member for Pilbara
<b>Members</b>	John Hyde, MLA Member for Perth
	Tony O'Gorman, MLA Member for Joondalup
	Rob Johnson, MLA Member for Hillarys (discharged 26/3/2002)
	Sue Walker, MLA Member for Nedlands (appointed 26/3/2002)

## COMMITTEE STAFF

<b>Principal Research Officer</b> <b>Research Officer</b>	Michael Baker, BA (Hons) Nicole Burgess, BA
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## **COMMITTEE'S FUNCTIONS AND POWERS**

The functions of the Committee are to review and report to the Assembly on:

- The outcomes and administration of the departments within the Committee's portfolio responsibilities;
- Annual reports of government departments laid on the Table of the House;
- The adequacy of legislation and regulations within its jurisdiction; and
- Any matters referred to it by the Assembly including a bill, motion, petition, vote or expenditure, other financial matter, report or paper.

At the commencement of each Parliament and as often thereafter as the Speaker considers necessary, the Speaker will determine and table a schedule showing the portfolio responsibilities of the Committee. Annual reports of the government departments and authorities tabled in the Assembly will stand referred to the Committee for any inquiry the Committee may make.

Whenever the Committee receives or determines for itself fresh or amended terms of reference, the Committee will forward them to each standing and select committee of the Assembly and joint committee of the Assembly and Council. The Speaker will announce them to the Assembly at the next opportunity and arrange for them to be placed on the notice boards of the Assembly.

The general provisions for standing and select committees (Standing Orders 248 – 281) also apply to the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee.



## **CHAIR'S FOREWORD**

This is the first report of the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee, which was first appointed on 30 May 2001.

The Committee currently has one inquiry underway. The Committee's inquiry relates to emergency services legislation. The Committee established clear terms of reference and in programming its inquiry has conducted deliberative meetings, taken part in briefing sessions and received formal evidence from witnesses appearing at hearings.

Extensive research by the Principal Research Officer and Research Officer has ensured that relevant background information has been provided to members in preparation for the inquiry's progress. Given the importance of this inquiry and the implications it will have in terms of recommendations to the Parliament we have concentrated on this task as our primary focus over the last year.

I would like to thank my fellow Committee members, Deputy Chair, Larry Graham, John Hyde, Rob Johnson, Tony O'Gorman and Sue Walker for their individual and collective contributions over the last twelve months and commend the Principal Research Officer, Michael Baker and Research Officer, Nicole Burgess, for their professional attitude and hard work. I would also like to thank the Committee's receptionist, Helen Lünsman and the Parliamentary Assistant, Glen Whitting for their assistance throughout the year.

**DAVID TEMPLEMAN, MLA**  
**CHAIR**



## CHAPTER 1 COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

During the course of this reporting period (Table 1), the Committee:

- Initiated one inquiry involving 23 meetings;
- Took evidence and was briefed by 13 persons;
- Attended conferences on emergency management in Perth.

*Table 1. Summary of activities of the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee, 30 May 2001 - 30 June 2002.*

Description	Activity
Briefings	6
Deliberative meetings	23
Formal evidence hearings	4
Witnesses appearing	8

### 1.2 PUBLIC HEARINGS

Pursuant to Assembly Standing Order 264, the Committee has power to send for persons, papers and records. During the period 30 May 2001 to 30 June 2002, the Committee conducted three public hearings, taking evidence from witnesses to assist with its investigations (Table 2).

*Table 2. Public Hearings of the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee, 30 May 2001 - 30 June 2002*

Date	Witness	Position	Organisation
5 Apr-02	Mr Barry Matthews	Commissioner	Police Service
	Mr Bruce Brennan	Deputy Commissioner	Police Service
	Superintendent Bob Coops	Response and Specialist Support	Police Service
12 Apr-02	Mr Robert Mitchell	Chief Executive Officer	FESA
	Mr Barry Hamilton	Executive Director Community Safety	FESA
	Mr Gary Gifford	Regional Director	FESA
26 June-02	Ms Ricky Burges	Chief Executive Officer	WALGA
	Mr Bruce Whittber	Policy Manager Governance	WALGA

### 1.3 BRIEFINGS

In addition to gathering evidence during the formal hearings, the Committee received a number of informal briefings. The briefings were used to gain information in relation to the Committee's inquiry as well as other matters (Table 3).

*Table 3. Briefings provided to the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee, 30 May 2001 - 30 June 2002.*

Date	Name	Organisation	Location of Briefing
8-Aug-01	Mr Barry Matthews, Commissioner	Police Service	Perth
22-Aug-01	Ms Jane Brazier, Acting Director General	Department of Community Development	Perth
12-Sept-01	Prof. Richard Harding	Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services	Perth
	Mr Bob Stacey	Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services	Perth
14-Nov-01	Superintendent Bob Coops	Police Service	Perth
	Neil Warner	Police Service	Perth
21-Nov-01	Mr Robert Mitchell	Fire and Emergency Services Authority	Perth
	Mr Barry Hamilton	Fire and Emergency Services Authority	Perth
28-Nov-01	Mr Bob Barker	St John Ambulance	Perth
	Mr Bill Thomson	St John Ambulance	Perth

### 1.4 INVESTIGATIVE TRAVEL

The Committee did not undertake investigative travel during the period 30 May 2001 – 30 June 2002.

#### 1.4.1 Conferences

The Committee attended the inaugural emergency management national conference *Emergency Management through the Looking Glass: Strategic Directions* held in Perth on 8 March 2002. This one day conference brought together practitioners and theorists with an overarching theme to promote strategic and innovative developments in emergency management across Australia. Representatives of the Committee also attended a morning seminar on *The Great Evacuation Debate: Should I stay or should I go* held by FESA Emergency Management Services on 27 March 2002. The seminar brought together individuals to debate the topic of emergency service responders being given legislative powers to make forced evacuations. The seminar provided general discussion on the subject of evacuation and the role that various emergency services personnel may play in the event of a mass evacuation.

### 1.5 REPORTS TABLED

The Committee did not table a report during the period 30 May 2001 – 30 June 2002, because it was still conducting an inquiry as at 30 June. See 1.6 Works in Progress.

## 1.6 WORK IN PROGRESS

Western Australia is the only State in Australia not to have Emergency Services legislation. In light of both recent world events, and the regular emergencies faced by Western Australia in cyclones and bushfires, the Committee is currently undertaking an inquiry into Emergency Services legislation and emergency management in Western Australia. The terms of reference for the inquiry are as follows:

That the Committee examine, report and make recommendations on emergency management in Western Australia, benchmarked against other Australian States, with particular reference to:

1. the means by which legislation puts in place effective measures to respond to emergencies and disasters;
2. the effectiveness or otherwise of command structures in emergency services;
3. the effectiveness or otherwise of the information flow in times of emergency;
4. the effectiveness or otherwise of the system of reporting of emergency management; and
5. the effectiveness or otherwise of the existing Western Australian legislation.

The Committee will report its findings to the Legislative Assembly on or before Thursday, 31 October 2002.

In order to adequately address the complex issues within the terms of reference, it is important that the Committee is familiar with the key issues being considered both within Australia and in other countries. Western Australia needs to be operating at the level of world's best practice and with new frameworks being put in place, now is the time to ensure that we get it right

### CANADA

As part of this inquiry, the Committee will attend the World Conference on Disaster Management being held in Toronto, Canada on 7-10 July 2002. The theme of the conference is "*The Changing Face of Disaster Management*" and it is the Committee's view that with the Western Australian Parliament currently considering new emergency management legislation, it is essential that our disaster management practices are at the leading edge of world practice.

In addition to the conference, the Committee will be visiting three provinces of Canada – Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia. Canada has a similar political and administrative structure to Australia, with 11 Provinces (States) and a Federal government. It is also a country of enormous physical area, with a population not much larger than that of Australia.

As a result, Canada is often used as a comparative model by Australian government and bureaucracy. While some disasters faced by Canada can be different from those in Australia, often being due to extreme cold as opposed to extreme heat, the two countries share many hazards and many emergency management challenges.

## PORT HEDLAND/KARRATHA

The Committee has agreed that one of the key elements of any emergency management inquiry in Western Australia must focus on cyclones, as they are the most destructive and common form of natural disaster experienced in this State. Therefore, the Committee resolved that it should be briefed by people actively involved in managing cyclones, in addition to talking to the Perth-based Emergency Services agencies.

To facilitate these briefings, the Committee will travel to the North West in August 2002 to meet with Local Emergency Management Committee personnel in Port Hedland and Karratha and local government authorities in those towns. The Committee will also travel to some more remote locations to gain an insight into problems experienced outside of the regional centres.

## QUEENSLAND/VICTORIA

In Western Australia there is currently no specific emergency management legislation. Emergency management arrangements are diverse and administration is spread over State, Regional, and Local levels, with all ultimately responsible to the State Government. The Committee wishes to compare this to the management of emergency services within other Australian states.

Queensland's Department of Emergency Services is unique in Australia. The agency provides services covering all phases of emergency and disaster management - prevention, preparedness, response and recovery - delivered by fire, ambulance and counter disaster and rescue services across a single portfolio. The Committee is keen to compare the difference between this formalised, legislated structure and the current operating practices in Western Australia.

In late August 2002, as part of the Committee's investigation it will visit the emergency services complex at Kedron in Brisbane's northern suburbs. The complex provides integrated accommodation for all the emergency services and the State Disaster Coordination Centre.

The Committee will meet with local government authorities in both Brisbane and Cairns to gain information from a local perspective. Discussions with people actively involved in managing cyclones, in relation to Cairns, will be beneficial.

The Committee will return via Melbourne to meet with representatives from Emergency Management Australia (EMA) and representatives from the Victorian emergency management agencies. EMA is a Commonwealth organisation responsible for the day-to-day management of coordinating States and Territories in the development of their emergency management capabilities. EMA also coordinates Commonwealth government physical assistance to States and Territories, upon request, during major disasters. EMA works closely with a wide range of Commonwealth authorities, State and Territory agencies, local government and industry bodies and will be able to provide valuable information to the committee.



## CHAPTER 2 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Community Development and Justice Standing Committee does not have its own formal budget and is funded out of the budget of the Legislative Assembly. Approval for major expenditures is required on a case-by-case basis and is entirely at the discretion of the Speaker.

The Committee's expenditure for the financial year 2001 – 2002 (in accordance with Standing Order 276) is detailed below:

Conference Fees		\$3,400
Protocol (Food, Beverages, Gifts)		\$200
Travel		
Members' Allowances	\$3,200	
Staff Allowances	<u>\$1,400</u>	\$4,600
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,200</b>

Notes:

1. Figures rounded off to nearest \$100.
2. Salaries of committee staff not included.
3. Costs of shared administrative expenses, including lease costs for committee accommodation, not included.