

**40TH PARLIAMENT**



**Report No. 3**

**ECONOMICS AND INDUSTRY STANDING  
COMMITTEE**

*Annual Report 2017-18*

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Presented by  
Ms J Shaw, MLA

August 2018

## *Committee Members*

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Chair	Ms Jessica Shaw, MLA Member for Swan Hills
Deputy Chair	Mr Sean L'Estrange, MLA Member for Churchlands
Members	Mr Yaz Mubarakai, MLA Member for Jandakot
	Mr Stephen Price, MLA Member for Forrestfield
	Hon Terry Redman, MLA Member for Warren-Blackwood

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# Economics and Industry Standing Committee

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## Annual Report 2017-18

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Report No. 3

Presented by

**Ms Jessica Shaw, MLA**

Laid on the Table of the Legislative Assembly on 23 August 2018

## Chair's Foreword

It has been a busy and very productive first full year for the Economics and Industry Standing Committee of the 40<sup>th</sup> Parliament. It is my pleasure as Chair to present this annual report, providing an overview of the work we have undertaken.

The Committee's major focus for 2017 was on the completion of its *Inquiry into Regional Airfares in Western Australia*. This inquiry was initiated following significant community concern about the inordinate and often inexplicable cost of air travel to regional destinations within Western Australia. As the Committee travelled throughout the State, we heard about the devastating impact high airfares have on individuals, families, communities and businesses.

The Committee found that the evidence presented to it could not support a finding that market forces were operating effectively on some regional routes. We expressed concerns about the possibility of market failure or anti-competitive conduct.

Whilst we recommended a graduated set of State Government interventions to address the transparency and effective functioning of regional air routes, we expressed the clear view that it was preferable for Industry to take proactive steps.

The State Government accepted, in full or in principal, all recommendations in the Report. The Committee looks forward to seeing the action government now takes to update the State Aviation Strategy and introduce new measures to enhance transparency and market effectiveness.

It has also been pleasing to see Industry participants introduce initiatives to reduce air travel costs, including new discount advance purchase and community fares for regional residents. It is important to note, however, that these are often discounts from the most expensive fare classes and/or are 'trials'. The Committee also notes that 'compassionate' fare availability remains severely constrained. We will continue to monitor regional air route dynamics and consider whether the steps Industry has introduced represent meaningful, long term measures to facilitate access to reasonably priced regional fares.

In January 2018 the Committee initiated a new inquiry into microgrids and associated technologies in Western Australia to examine the profound changes underway in our energy economy; understand the benefits these developments may offer the State; and identify factors that may prevent us from fully realising these benefits.

The response to the Inquiry has been extremely positive. The Committee thanks the wide range of industry and community stakeholders who have thus far provided

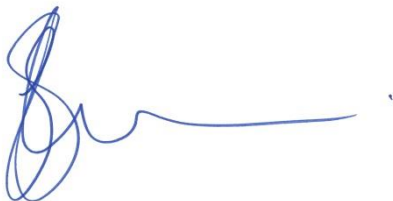
submissions and attended hearings. We intend to table an Interim Report at the end of the 2018 parliamentary year and a final Report in early 2019.

In May 2018, following an earlier hearing in 2017 from Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, the Committee resolved to also conduct an Inquiry into the State's smash repair industry. Whilst the response thus far to these terms of reference has not been as strong as previous inquiries, there are nonetheless several issues that have arisen in evidence that warrant further consideration. We look forward to completing that inquiry by the end of the year.

Throughout the course of 2017-18, we have been greatly assisted by Principal Research Officer David Worth, Research Officer Lachlan Gregory and the Hansard staff, who have handled two particularly heavy hearing and inquiry schedules. I would like to express the Committee's gratitude for their advice and support.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow committee members, Sean L'Estrange, Yaz Mubarakai, Stephen Price and Terry Redman for working in such a collegiate and constructive manner on the Committee's work programme. As a new Chair and parliamentarian, I have appreciated your engagement, support and guidance on the various topics we have tackled over this past year.

Committees provide parliamentarians with an opportunity to undertake constructive work, across a range of topics, that can (and arguably often should) be above partisan politics. Our Committee is well-positioned to meaningfully consider, suggest and support initiatives that can drive long term growth and prosperity, across the entire State. In that spirit, I look forward to continuing to work with my fellow members on our exciting agenda and to making a valuable contribution to the work of the 40<sup>th</sup> Parliament.



**MS JESSICA SHAW, MLA**  
**CHAIR**

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# Chapter 1

## Committee's activities

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**A report on the activities of the Economics and Industry Standing Committee for the financial year 2017-18.**

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### Introduction

During the course of the 2017-18 reporting period the Economics and Industry Standing Committee ('the Committee') undertook an Inquiry on Regional Airfare Prices in Western Australia. The Committee tabled its final report *Perceptions and Realities of Regional Airfare Prices in Western Australia*, on the 30th November 2017. In February 2018, the Committee commenced a new Inquiry into *Microgrids and Associated Technologies* and anticipates tabling an interim report for this Inquiry in November 2018. In May 2018 the Committee began an Inquiry into *WA's Automotive Smash Repair Industry*, and will also table a final report in November 2018.

A summary of the activities of the Committee during the course of this reporting period – 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 – is included in Table 1.1.

**Table 1.1: Summary of Committee activities, 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018**

Activity	Number
Reports tabled	2
Deliberative meetings	20
Public and closed hearings	82
Briefings	7
Witnesses appearing	175

### Portfolios

The portfolio areas of the Committee as determined by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the 40<sup>th</sup> Parliament are:

- Agriculture and Food
- Asian Engagement
- Commerce and Industrial Relations
- Defence Issues
- Energy
- Fisheries
- Forestry
- Heritage
- Housing

- Innovation and ICT
- Lands
- Mines and Petroleum
- Planning
- Racing and Gaming
- Regional Development
- Science
- Small Business
- State Development, Jobs and Trade
- Tourism
- Transport
- Water

### Public and closed hearings

Pursuant to Standing Order 264, the Committee has power to send for persons, papers and records. During the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, the Committee conducted 82 hearings and took evidence from 175 witnesses.

While the majority of the hearings related to the Committee’s Inquiries, the Committee also undertook discreet hearings with the Small Business Development Corporation and the Small Business Commissioner on 14 March 2018 in regard to the issue of franchising. It also held a hearing with Mr Franklin Gaffney in regard to native title issues on this date. The transcripts of these hearings were published on the Committee’s web site.

**Table 1.2 – Witnesses who provided evidence at public hearings of the Committee:  
1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018**

Date	Name	Position	Organisation
9 August 2017	Mr Steve Beyer	Acting Managing Director, Policy, Planning and Investment	Department of Transport
	Mr Brett Hughes	Executive Director, Transport Strategy and Reform	
	Mr Peter Ryan	Director, Aviation	
16 August 2017	Mr Ralph Addis	Acting Director General	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
	Mr Martin Clifford	Manager, Policy and Strategy (Regional Development Division)	
<u>Kununurra</u> 21 August 2017	Mr Carl Askew	Chief Executive Officer	Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley



	Mr Paul Bawden	Manager, East Kimberley Regional Airport	
	Mr Jeff Gooding	Chief Executive Officer	Kimberley Development Commission
	Ms Jill Williams	Chairperson	East Kimberley Chamber of Commerce and Industry
	Ms Michele Pucci	Vice Chairperson	
<u>Broome</u> 22 August 2017	Cr Harold Tracey	Acting Shire President	Shire of Broome
	Mr Sam Mastrolembo	Chief Executive Officer	
	Ms Aletta Nugent	Director, Development and Community	
	Mr Mark Davis	Manager, Community and Economic Development	
	Mr Paul McSweeney	Chief Executive Officer	Broome International Airport
	Ms Kimberley Krenz	Commercial Manager	
	Mr Robert Menzies	Executive Manager Infrastructure	
	Mr Peter Taylor	President	Broome Chamber of Commerce and Industry
	Ms Jael Napper	Chief Executive Officer	
	Mrs Elsia Archer	Shire President	Shire of Derby-West Kimberley
	Mr Stephen Gash	Chief Executive Officer	
	Mr Paul Bickerton	President	Derby Chamber of Commerce and Industry
	Mr Stewart Milne	Vice President	
	Mr Michael Leake	Manager	Habitat Resort
	Mr James Brown	Chair	Broome Tourism Leadership Group
Mr William Reed AM	Director	Allure South Sea Pearls	
<u>Karratha</u> 23 August 2017	Mr Simon Kot	Director, Strategic Projects and Infrastructure Services	City of Karratha
	Mr John Lally	Chief Executive Officer	Karratha and Districts Chamber

	Mr Vaughan Corps	Vice President	of Commerce and Industry
	Mrs Cassie Perry	Board Member	
	Mr Terry Hill	Chief Executive Officer	Pilbara Development Commission
	Mr Armando de la Flor Olavide	Senior Partnerships and Engagement Officer	Town of Port Hedland
	Mr Owen Hightower	Consultant	
<u>Albany</u> 29 August 2017	Mr Dennis Wellington	Mayor	City of Albany
	Mr Andrew Sharpe	Chief Executive Officer	
	Mr Michael Cole	Executive Director of Corporate Services	
	Mr Paul Rosair	Executive Officer	WA Regional Capitals Alliance
	Ms Caroline Hayes	President	Albany Chamber of Commerce and Industry
	Mr Russell Clark	Chief Executive Officer	
	Ms Elise van Gorp	General Manager	Discovery Bay
	Ms Cathy Glen		Skal International
<u>Esperance</u> 30 August 2017	Cr Victoria Brown	President	Shire of Esperance
	Cr Natalie Bowman	Deputy President	
	Mr Matthew Scott	Chief Executive Officer	
	Ms Kylie Ryan	Chief Executive Officer	Esperance Chamber of Commerce and Industry
	Mr Wayne Halliday	Chairperson	Tourism Esperance
<u>Kalgoorlie</u> 31 August 2017	Mr John Bowler	Mayor	City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
	Mr John Walker	Chief Executive Officer	
	Ms Jessica Biddle	President	Kalgoorlie-Boulder Chamber of Commerce and Industry
	Mr Hugh Gallagher	Chief Executive Officer	
	Mr Ronald Mosby	President	Regional Chambers of Commerce and Industry of WA
	Mr Shayne Flanagan	Chief Executive Officer	Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission

6 September 2017	Associate Professor Jianhong Xia	Lecturer, Department of Spatial Sciences	Curtin University
	Ms Derryn Belford	Executive Director, Destination Development	Tourism WA
	Ms Claire Werkmeister	Director, Aviation Development and Policy	
	Mrs Louise Scott	Executive Director, Strategy, Brand and Marketing Services	
11 September 2017	Ms Chantelle King	Chief Executive Officer	Onslow Chamber of Commerce and Industry
	Ms Hayley Brett	Vice President	
	Mr Andrew David	Chief Executive Officer, Qantas Domestic	Qantas Airways Ltd
	Mr Andrew Parker	Group Executive, Government, Industry and International Affairs	
	Mr Guy Waddell	Head of Domestic Revenue Management	
	Mr Guy Thompson	President	
	Ms Caroline Wilkie	Chief Executive Officer	
	Mr Dale Stewart	Acting Chief Executive Officer	Shire of Ashburton
	Mr Troy Davis	Director, Infrastructure Services	
	Ms Jane McKeon	Group Executive, Government Relations	Virgin Australia
	Mr Anthony Stokes	General Manager, Finance	
	Mr Richard George	Head of Corporate Sales	
	Mr William Townsend	General Manager, External Affairs and Joint Venture	INPEX

	Mr John Williams	Manager, External Affairs	
	Mr Nicholas Wirtz	Senior External Affairs Officer	
13 September 2017	Hon Colin de Grussa, MLC	Member for the Agricultural Region	Parliamentary National Party of Australia (WA)
	Mr Vincent Catania, MLA	Member for North West Central	
	Ms Johanna Ramsay	Aviation Consultant	
	Mr Warrick Lodge	General Manager, Network Strategy and Sales	Regional Express (Rex)
18 September 2017	Mr Evan Hall	Chief Executive Officer	Tourism Council WA
	Ms Tania Donovan	Chairperson	Western Australian Aboriginal Tourism Operators Council
	Mr Robert Taylor	Chief Executive Officer	
	Mrs Caroline Cherry	Manager, Economic Competitiveness	Chamber of Minerals and Energy Western Australian
	Ms Lisa-Maree Campbell	Policy Advisor	
	Mr Neil van Drunen	Policy Advisor	Association of Mining and Exploration Companies
	Mr Paul Cmrlec	Managing Director	Pantoro Ltd
	Mr Bob Davis	Director, Corporate and Commercial Services	City of Greater Geraldton
	Mrs Lynette Craigie	President	WA Local Government Association
	Mr Ian Duncan	Executive Manager, Infrastructure	
	Mr Anthony Friday	Chief Executive Officer	Pilbara Regional Council
	Mr Bradley Woods	Chief Executive Officer	Australian Hotels Association (WA)
	Ms Victoria Jackson	Government Relations Manager	
	Mr Stan Quinlivan	Chief Executive Officer	

1 November 2017	Mr Steve Beyer	Acting Managing Director, Policy Planning and Investment	Department of Transport
	Mr Brett Hughes	Executive Director, Transport Strategy and Reform	
	Mr Peter Ryan	Director, Aviation	
	Mr Claude Scivolo		
29 November 2017	Mr David Smith	Director General	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety
	Mr David Hillyard	Commissioner for Consumer Protection	
14 March 2018	Ms Kitty Prodonovich	Chair	Small Business Development Commission
	Mr David Eaton	Small Business Commissioner	
	Ms Jacky Finlayson	Executive Director	
	Mr Franklin Gaffney	Special Counsel	Lavin Legal
<u>Carnarvon</u> 4 April 2018	Mr Luke Vandeleur	Vice President	Carnarvon Chamber of Commerce and Industry
	Mr Kristan Pinner	Committee Member	
	Mr Karl Brandenburg	President	Shire of Carnarvon
	Mr Mark Dacombe	Acting Chief Executive Officer	
	Mr Laurie Curro	General Manager, Power System Services	Horizon Power
	Mr Terry Mohn	General Manager, Advanced Microgrid Development	
	Mr David Edwards	Technical Visionary, Advanced Microgrid Development	
11 April 2018	Mr Frank Tudor	Chief Executive Officer	Horizon Power
	Mr Laurie Curro	General Manager Power Systems Services	

	Mr Terry Mohn	General Manager Advanced Microgrid Developments	
	Mr Mike Houlahan	General Manager Commercial Services and Finance	
	Mr Mark Peterson	General Manager Consumer Energy	
	Mr Guy Chalkley	Chief Executive Officer	Western Power
	Mr Ben Bristow	Acting Head of Grid Transformation	
	Mr Seán McGoldrick	Executive Manager, Asset Management	
9 May 2018	Ms Nina Lyhne	Acting Director General	Department of Transport
	Dr Brett Hughes	Executive Director, Transport Strategy and Reform	
	Mr Peter Ryan	Director, Aviation Policy and Programs	
	Mr Steve Beyer	Acting Managing Director	
	Mr Jason Waters	Chief Executive Officer	Synergy
	Mr Allen Gerber	Manager- Energy Solutions	
	Mr Cameron Parrotte	Executive General Manager Western Australia	Australian Energy Market Operator
	Mr Martin Maticka	Group Manager- WA Markets	
	Mr Dean Sharafi	General Manager- System Management	
	Dr Natalia Kostecki	Principal Policy and Market Development Analyst	
16 May 2018	Prof Ray Wills	Managing Director	Future Smart Strategies
	Mr Warren Pearce	Chief Executive Officer	Association of Mining and

	Mr Neil van Drunen	Policy Advisor	Exploration Companies
	Mr Robert Klug	Chief Commercial Officer	Sandfire Resources
	Mrs Colleen Ferrier	Sustainability Senior Advisor	
	Mr Joe Ostojich	Deputy Director General, Policy, Planning and Science	Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation
	Prof Lyn Beazley AO	Member	WA Technology and Industry and Advisory Council
	Ms Michele Clement	Manager, Secretariat	
13 June 2018	Mr Wayne Wood	Branch Secretary	Australian Services Union (ASU)
	Ms Jill Hugo	Assistant Branch Secretary	
	Ms Tristy Fairfield	Microgrid Policy and Project Expert	Energy Made Clean
	Mr Paul Azzalini	Strategy and Development Manager	Lendlease
18 June 2018	Dr Christopher Jones	National Secretary	Australian Electric Vehicle Association Inc
	Dr Farhad Shahnia	Senior Lecturer	School of Engineering and Information Technology, Murdoch University
	Dr Tania Urmee	Senior Lecturer	
	Dr GM Shafiullah	Lecturer	
	Mr Ian Learmonth	Chief Executive Officer	Clean Energy Finance Corporation
	Ms Samantha Tough	Director	
	Mr Simon Brooker	Executive Director, Corporate and Project Finance	
	Professor Peter Newman, AO	Professor of Sustainability	Curtin University
	Professor Greg Morrison	Professor Sustainable Cities	
	Mr Tim Walton	Director Energy Research Initiatives	
Mr Dermot Costello	Regional Advisor WA	Clean Energy Council	

	Mr Greg Szozda	Principal Consultant, Power Generation Engineering	Jacobs Group (Aust) Pty Ltd
	Mr Jason Greeff		PwC Australia
20 June 2018	Dr Ray Challen	Governing Body Member	Economic Regulation Authority
	Mr Paul Kelly	Executive Director, Regulation and Inquiries	
27 June 2018	Mr Stephen Moir	Chief Executive Officer	Motor Trade Association of WA
	Ms Marie Donato	Division Manager	
	Mr Andrew O'Hara	Chief Executive Officer, RAC Insurance	Royal Automobile Club of WA
	Mr Will Golsby	General Manager Corporate Affairs	
	Mr Brad Chalder	Supplier Relationship Manager	
	Mr David Smith	Director General	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety
	Mr Peter Gow	Acting Deputy Director General for Industry Regulation and Consumer Protection	
	Mr David Hillyard	Commissioner for Consumer Protection	

The Committee held two closed hearings with three witnesses during the reporting period.

**Table 1.3 – Witnesses who provided evidence at closed hearings of the Committee:  
1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018**

Date	Name	Position	Organisation
31 August 2017	Mr John Walker	Chief Executive Officer	The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
18 June 2018	Mr Tony Stocken	Senior Business Development Manager	Tesla Motors Australia Pty Ltd
	Ms Emma Fagan	Energy Policy	



## Briefings

The Committee received seven briefings involving 11 witnesses during 2017-18 in preparation for its *Inquiry into Microgrids and Associated Technologies*. Details of these are contained in Table 1.4 below.

**Table 1.4 – Witnesses who briefed the Committee, 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018**

Date	Name	Position	Organisation
14 February 2018	Mr Aden Barker	Acting Director, Retail and Consumer Policy	Public Utilities Office, Department of Treasury
	Ms Brooke Eddington	Acting Project Leader, Energy Industry Development Division	
1 March 2018	Ms Audrey Zibelman	Chief Executive Officer	Australian Energy Market Operator
	Mr Cameron Parrotte	Executive General Manager Western Australia	
16 March 2018	Dr Michael Ottaviano	CEO and Managing Director	Carnegie Clean Energy/Energy Made Clean
	Mr Greg Locke	General Manager, Energy & Technology Services	Lendlease
29 March 2018	Mr Guy Chalkley	Chief Executive Officer	Western Power
	Mr Seán McGoldrick	Executive Manager Asset Management	
	Ms Fiona Bishop	Executive Manager of Change and Innovation	
<u>Carnarvon</u> 4 April 2018	Mr Frank Tudor	Managing Director	Horizon Power
20 June 2018	Mr Matthew Bowen	Partner	Jackson McDonald

## Conferences and site visits

During the period 2017-18 the Committee did not attend any conferences.

It did undertake four visits to businesses for the purposes of conducting research and gathering evidence for its current *Inquiry into Microgrids and Associated Technologies*:

- Thursday 1 March 2018- to the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) in the Perth CBD to receive a briefing on the South West Interconnected System (SWIS);
- Friday 16 March 2018- to Carnegie Energy/Energy Made Clean in Belmont to receive a briefing on their delivery of solar photovoltaic, battery energy storage systems (BESS) and microgrids in Australia;
- Thursday 29 March 2018- to Western Power in the Perth CBD for a three hour workshop on Western Power's activities with respect to microgrids; and
- Wednesday 4 April 2018- to Canarvon to receive a briefing on microgrid activities at Horizon Power's Depot, visit the Mungullah Power Station and hold local hearings for its Inquiry.

### **Investigative travel**

During the period 2017-18, the Committee travelled to six regional centres within Western Australia, to undertake public hearings for its Inquiry into Regional Airfare Prices in Western Australia. The Committee travelled to the Kimberley and Pilbara Regions, visiting Kununurra, Broome and Karratha. The Committee travelled to the Great Southern and Goldfields-Esperance Regions, visiting Albany, Esperance and Kalgoorlie.

The Committee also held public forums in four regional centres, Broome, Kalgoorlie, Karratha and Kununurra. Each of the public forums were attended by about 50 people and provided the opportunity for community members to participate directly with the Committee's Inquiry.

The Committee travelled to Canarvon on 4 April 2018 for its current *Inquiry into Microgrids and Associated Technologies*. It met with representatives from Horizon Power at their Gascoyne Mid-West Depot, visited the Mungullah Power Station and undertook three public hearings.

### **Impact of Regional Airfares Inquiry**

Since the Committee tabled its final report for the Inquiry into regional airfares in Western Australia, several initiatives have been announced that are intended to reduce the cost of air travel between Perth and regional destinations:

**May 2018-** Qantas announced that it would double their previous discounts to rural customers in Broome, Kalgoorlie, Karratha, Paraburdoo, Port Hedland and Newman using Red eDeal fares, from 10 to 20%.<sup>1</sup>

**May 2018-** A new arrangement between Qantas and the State Government will see weekend flights from Perth to Broome cost less than \$200, a saving of more than \$200 for a return trip. The special fares will be available at \$199 one-way during the high season and \$179 during the low season in a one-year trial the Government hopes will increase visitors to that town.<sup>2</sup>

**June 2018-** Flights to Carnarvon and Monkey Mia will be cheaper after the new airline flying these routes, Rex, announced the introduction of its Community Fare scheme. One-way flights to Carnarvon and Monkey Mia will be \$199 and \$157 respectively for the first 25% of seats booked 60 days before departure, and to all remaining seats booked 24 hours before the trip. This is a saving of \$91 for travellers to Monkey Mia and \$68 for those flying to Carnarvon.<sup>3</sup>

## Work in progress

On the 21 February 2018 the Committee advised the Parliament that it had resolved to inquire into and report on the emergence and impact of electricity microgrids and associated technologies in Western Australia, including;

- a. The potential for Microgrids and associated technologies to contribute to the provision of affordable, secure, reliable and sustainable energy supply, in both metropolitan and regional WA;
- b. Opportunities to maximise economic and employment opportunities associated with the development of Microgrids and associated technologies, including (but not limited to):
  - i. Development of raw materials resources/primary commodities

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1 Robert Dougherty and Jason Mennell, *North West Telegraph*, 'Discount airfares up for grabs', 1 May 2018. Available at: <https://thewest.com.au/news/north-west-telegraph/discount-airfares-up-for-grabs-ng-b88822752z>. Accessed on 26 June 2018.

2 Daile Cross, *WA Today*, 'Qantas drops cost of flights from Perth to Broome to boost tourism', 18 May 2018. Available at: [www.watoday.com.au/national/western-australia/qantas-drops-cost-of-flights-from-perth-to-broome-to-boost-tourism-20180518-p4zg2b.html](http://www.watoday.com.au/national/western-australia/qantas-drops-cost-of-flights-from-perth-to-broome-to-boost-tourism-20180518-p4zg2b.html). Accessed on 26 June 2018.

3 Dylan Caporn, *The West Australian*, 'WA's Gascoyne airfare prices to drop in new State Government deal', 25 June 2018. Available at: <https://thewest.com.au/politics/state-politics/mid-west-airfare-prices-to-drop-in-new-state-government-deal-ng-b88877122z>. Accessed on 26 June 2018.

- ii. Research and development
  - iii. Design, engineering and construction
  - iv. Advanced manufacturing
  - v. ICT
  - vi. Ongoing asset operations
- c. Key enablers, barriers and other factors affecting Microgrid development and electricity network operations, including:
  - i. Regulatory barriers
  - ii. Technical factors
  - iii. Workforce planning and development
  - iv. Social factors
  - v. Electric Vehicles
- d. Initiatives in other jurisdictions to facilitate the development, and maximise the value of, Microgrids and associated technologies.

The Committee will report to the House by 29 November 2018.

On the 16 May 2018, following an earlier hearing with the Commissioner for Consumer Protection and the Director General of the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, the Committee resolved to undertake an inquiry into the State's smash repair industry and resolved to inquire into, and report on,:

- 1) Automotive smash repair work and whether it is being carried out to adequate safety and quality standards in Western Australia;
- 2) The current Motor Vehicle Insurance and Repair Industry Code of Conduct, its governance structure and dispute resolution mechanisms and whether it is effective at regulating the relationship between repairers and insurers, and in serving consumer interests;
- 3) Consumer choice, consumer protection and consumer knowledge in respect of contracts and repairs under insurance policies; and
- 4) The business practices of insurers, and repairers, including vertical integration in the market, the transparency of those business practises and implications for consumers.

The Committee will report to the House by 29 November 2018.

## Chapter 2

### Financial statement

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#### Expenditure of the Committee during the 2017-18 financial year.

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#### Committee expenditure

The Committee does not have its own formal budget and it is funded out of the budget of the Legislative Assembly. Approval for major expenditure is required on a case-by-case basis and is subject to the approval of the Speaker.

The Committee is required, in accordance with Standing Order 276, to detail expenditure for the financial year 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018. The figures tendered below cover the full reporting period.

**Table 2.1 – Expenditure items of the Committee, 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018**

Expenditure item	Total (\$)
Printing	2,513
Advertising	4,735
Taxis and couriers	4,819
Meeting costs	60,333
Staff and Member amenities	965
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>73,365</b>

Notes:

- Figures rounded to nearest dollar.
- Excluded are the salaries of Committee staff and the costs of shared administrative expenses, including lease costs for Committee accommodation.



**MS JESSICA SHAW, MLA  
CHAIR**

# Appendix One

## Committee's functions and powers

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

- a) the outcomes and administration of the departments within the Committee's portfolio responsibilities;
- b) annual reports of Government departments laid on the Table of the House;
- c) the adequacy of legislation and regulations within its jurisdiction; and
- d) 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 for each committee. Annual reports of Government departments and authorities tabled in the Assembly will stand referred to the relevant Committee for any inquiry the Committee may make.

Whenever a 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.



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