



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 5

## Budget Estimates 2015-2016



Report 42

November 2015

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General Purpose Standing Committee No 5

# **Budget Estimates 2015-2016**

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## How to contact the committee

Members of the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5 can be contacted through the Committee Secretariat. Written correspondence and enquiries should be directed to:

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The Director

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## Terms of reference

1. These terms of reference were referred to the Committee by the House on 24 June 2015, see NSW Legislative Council Minutes, 24 June 2015, pp 230-231.
2. That upon tabling, the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2015 - 2016 presenting the amounts to be appropriated from the Consolidated Fund be referred to the General Purpose Standing Committees for inquiry and report.

3. That the initial hearings be scheduled as follows:

### **Day One: Monday 31 August 2015**

GPSC 2	Family and Community Services, Social Housing	9.00 am – 12.00 pm
GPSC 2	Roads, Maritime and Freight	2.00 pm – 6.00 pm
GPSC 3	Early Childhood Education, Aboriginal Affairs	9.00 am – 11.00 am
GPSC 3	Education	2.00 pm – 6.00 pm

### **Day Two: Tuesday 1 September 2015**

GPSC 2	Ageing, Disability Services, Multiculturalism	9.00 am – 12.00 pm
GPSC 2	Transport and Infrastructure	2.00 pm – 6.00 pm
GPSC 3	Mental Health, Medical Research, Women, Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault	9.00 am – 1.00 pm
GPSC 3	Health	2.00 pm – 6.00 pm

### **Day Three: Wednesday 2 September 2015**

GPSC 4	Trade, Tourism and Major Events, Sport	9.00 am – 12.00 pm
GPSC 4	Planning	2.00 pm – 6.00 pm
GPSC 1	Finance, Services and Property	9.00 am – 12.00 pm
GPSC 1	The Legislature	12.15 pm – 1.00 pm
GPSC 5	Industry, Resources and Energy	2.00 pm – 5.00 pm

### **Day Four: Thursday 3 September 2015**

GPSC 4	Justice and Police, Arts, Racing	9.00 am – 1.00 pm
GPSC 4	Attorney General	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
GPSC 1	Treasury, Industrial Relations	9.00 am – 1.00 pm
GPSC 1	Premier, Western Sydney	2.00 pm – 6.00 pm
GPSC 6	Innovation and Better Regulation	4.15 pm – 6.00 pm

### **Day Five: Friday 4 September 2015**

GPSC 5	Primary Industries, Lands and Water	9.00 am – 1.00 pm
GPSC 5	Environment, Heritage	2.00 pm – 5.00 pm
GPSC 6	Local Government	9.00 am – 11.00 am
GPSC 6	Regional Development, Skills, Small Business	11.15 am – 1.00 pm
GPSC 6	Corrections, Emergency Services, Veterans Affairs	2.00 pm – 5.00 pm

4. That supplementary hearings be scheduled during the week of 6 to 9 October 2015.

5. That each scheduled day for the initial round of hearings will begin at 9.00 a.m. and conclude by 6.00 p.m.
6. That the committees must hear evidence in public.
7. That the committees may ask for explanations from Ministers in the House, or officers of departments, statutory bodies or corporations, relating to the items of proposed expenditure.
8. That Ministers may not make an opening statement before the committee commences questions.
9. That the committees are to present a final report to the House by 18 December 2015.
10. That members may lodge supplementary questions with the committee clerk by 5.00 p.m., within two days, excluding Saturday and Sunday, following the hearing.
11. That answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions be published, except those answers for which confidentiality is requested, after these answers have been circulated to committee members.

## Committee membership

### General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

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<b>The Hon Robert Brown MLC</b>	Shooters and Fishers Party	<i>Chair</i>
<b>The Hon Mick Veitch MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
<b>Mr Jeremy Buckingham MLC</b>	The Greens	
<b>The Hon Rick Colless MLC</b>	The Nationals	
<b>Mr Scot MacDonald MLC</b>	Liberal Party	
<b>The Hon Greg Pearce MLC</b>	Liberal Party	
<b>The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party	

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### Non-substantive members who attended the hearings

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<b>Hon Ben Franklin MLC</b>	The Nationals
<b>Dr John Kaye MLC</b>	The Greens
<b>Dr Mehreen Faruqi MLC</b>	The Greens
<b>Hon Mark Pearson MLC</b>	Animal Justice Party
<b>Mr David Shoebridge MLC</b>	The Greens
<b>Hon Adam Searle MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party
<b>Hon Trevor Khan MLC</b>	The Nationals

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## Table of contents

	Chair's foreword	viii
Chapter 1	Introduction	1
	Referral of the 2015-2016 Budget Estimates	1
	Hearings	1
	Transcripts	1
	Questions on Notice	1
Chapter 2	Issues raised during the hearings	3
	Industry, Resources and Energy	3
	Primary Industries, Lands and Water	3
	Environment, Heritage	4
Appendix 1	Witnesses at hearings	5
Appendix 2	Tabled documents	7
Appendix 3	Minutes	8

## Chair's foreword

I am pleased to present this report on the Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2015-2016. This annual inquiry into the Budget Estimates ensures parliamentary oversight of the Budget, and provides an important mechanism for the accountability of the executive government to the Council.

The inquiry consisted of three hearings to examine the following portfolios:

- Industry, Resources and Energy
- Primary Industry, Lands and Water
- Environment, Heritage.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank the Ministers and their officers who assisted the committee during this important inquiry. I am grateful to my fellow committee members and the secretariat staff for their contributions to the inquiry process.



Mr Robert Brown MLC

**Chair**

# Chapter 1 Introduction

## Referral of the 2015-2016 Budget Estimates

- 1.1 On 24 June 2015, the Legislative Council resolved that ‘the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2015-2016 presenting the amounts to be appropriated from the Consolidated Fund be referred to the General Purpose Standing Committees for inquiry and report’.<sup>1</sup> The resolution (hereafter referred to as the Budget Estimates resolution) requires each committee to examine the Budget Estimates for the relevant portfolios and report to the House by 18 December 2015.<sup>2</sup>
- 1.2 The Budget Estimates resolution further stipulated that the initial hearings will be held in the week commencing 31 August 2015 and the initial round of supplementary hearings be scheduled during the week of 6-9 October 2015.<sup>3</sup>

## Hearings

- 1.3 The committee held three public hearings as follows:
- Wednesday 2 September 2015 – Industry, Resources and Energy
  - Friday 4 September 2015 – Primary Industries, Lands and Water
  - Friday 4 September 2015 – Environment, Heritage.

## Transcripts

- 1.4 Transcripts of the hearings are available on the committee’s web page at: [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc5](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc5).

## Questions on Notice

- 1.5 Questions taken on notice and the answers to these questions are also available on the committee’s web page.

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<sup>1</sup> *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 24 June 2015, pp 230 - 231.

<sup>2</sup> *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 24 June 2015, pp 230 - 231.

<sup>3</sup> *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 24 June 2015, pp 230 - 231.



## Chapter 2 Issues raised during the hearings

This chapter provides a brief summary by portfolio of the key issues raised during the hearings.

### Industry, Resources and Energy

2.1 A hearing examining the portfolio of Industry, Resources and Energy was held on Wednesday 2 September 2015. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of the Industry, Resources and Energy portfolio:

- Cancellation of Metgasco's coal seam gas exploration license
- Shenhua mine proposal in the Liverpool Plains area
- Buy backs of petroleum exploration licenses
- Pricing of electricity for consumers
- NSW energy savings target for 2021 and related projects
- Impact of changes to workers compensation legislation for coal miners
- Licenses for fossickers and fossicking districts in NSW
- Fines for electricity distribution companies relating to power outages without sufficient notice to households.

### Primary Industries, Lands and Water

2.2 A hearing examining the portfolios of Primary Industries, Lands and Water was held on Friday 4 September 2015. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of the Primary Industries, Lands and Water portfolios:

- Water loss due to breakages and leaks in the Sydney Water infrastructure pipeline
- Sydney Water's submission to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal relating to a reduction in water prices for users
- Deer hunting and the use of spotlights
- Role of RSPCA in prosecutions for animal cruelty
- Review of the shark meshing program

- Chemical leak at Willamstown RAAF base, the Department of Primary Industries response and the impact on the community and commercial fisheries
- Impact of logging on koalas
- Complaint reporting for Local Land Services
- Review of Crown Lands legislation.

## **Environment, Heritage**

**2.3** A hearing examining the portfolios of Environment, Heritage was held on Friday 4 September 2015. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of the Environment, Heritage portfolios:

- Groundwater contamination at Williamstown RAAF base
- Native vegetation clearing
- Biobanking
- Kangaroo management and culling
- Effect of government efficiency dividend requirement
- National Environment Protection Measure standards.

## Appendix 1 Witnesses at hearings

### Industry, Resources and Energy – Wednesday 2 September 2015

Name	Position and Organisation
The Hon Anthony Roberts MP	Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy
Mr Simon Smith	Secretary, NSW Department of Industry
Ms Kylie Hargreaves	Deputy Secretary, Resources and Energy
Dr Chris Yeats	Executive Director, Geological Survey of NSW

### Primary Industries, Lands and Water – Friday 4 September 2015

Name	Position and Organisation
The Hon Niall Blair MLC	Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Lands and Water
Mr Simon Smith	Secretary, NSW Department of Industry
Mr Scott Hansen	Director General, Department of Primary Industries
Ms Alison Stone	Deputy Director General, Land and Natural Resources
Mr Gavin Hanlon	Deputy Director General, Department of Primary Industries
Mr Eric De Rooy	General Manager, Service Delivery, Sydney Water
Mr Jeremy Bath	Group Manager, Public Affairs, Hunter Water
Mr David Harris	Chief Executive Officer, Water NSW
Mr Nick Roberts	Chief Executive Officer, Forestry Corp
Dr Geoff Allan	Executive Director, Fisheries NSW
Mrs Alexandra Anthony	A/Chair of the Board of Chairs, Local Land Services

## Environment, Heritage – Friday 4 September 2015

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Position and Organisation</b>
The Hon Mark Speakman MP	Minister for the Environment and Minister for Heritage
Mr Barry Buffier	Chair and Chief Executive, Environment Protection Authority
Mr Terry Bailey	Chief Executive Officer, Office of Environment and Heritage

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## Appendix 2 Tabled documents

**Wednesday 2 September 2015**

**Industry Resources and Energy**

1. Map of PEL457 – ERM Gas Pty Ltd, tendered by the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy, the Hon Anthony Roberts MP

**Friday 4 September 2015**

**Primary Industries, Lands and Water**

2. Local Land Services Annual Report - Consumer response, tendered by the Minister for Primary Industries, Lands and Water, the Hon Niall Blair MLC
3. Department of Primary Industries – NSW Farm Incursion Policy tendered by the Minister for Primary Industries, Lands and Water, the Hon Niall Blair MLC.

## Appendix 3 Minutes

### Minutes no. 2

Tuesday 12 August 2015

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

Members' Lounge, Parliament House, Sydney, at 2.10 pm

#### 1. Members present

Mr Brown *Chairman*

Mr Veitch, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Colless

Mr MacDonald

Mr Pearce

Ms Sharpe

#### 2. Draft minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That draft minutes no 1 be confirmed.

#### 3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

##### ***Received:***

- 31 July 2015 – Email from Ms Michaela Friedman, Office of the Minister Environment and Minister for Heritage, forwarding list of witnesses accompanying the minister to Budget Estimates hearing on 4 September 2015.
- 31 July 2015 – Email from Mr Berge Okosdinossian, Office of the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy, forwarding list of witnesses accompanying the minister to Budget Estimates hearing on 2 September 2015.
- 3 August 2015 – Email from Mr James Piggott, Office of the Minister Primary Industries, Lands and Water, forwarding list of witnesses accompanying the minister to Budget Estimates hearing on 4 September 2015.
- \*\*\*

##### ***Sent:***

- 24 July 2014 – Letter from Committee Director to the Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy, inviting the Minister to the Budget Estimates 2015-2016 hearings.
- 24 July 2014 – Letter from Committee Director to the Hon Niall Blair MLC, Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Lands and Water, inviting the Minister to the Budget Estimates 2015-2016 hearings.
- 24 July 2014 – Letter from Committee Director to the Hon Mark Speakman MP, Minister for Environment and Minister for Heritage, inviting the Minister to the Budget Estimates 2015-2016 hearings.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Colless: That the committee write to Magistrate Hugh Dillon thanking him for his letter, and noting that no criticism was intended by the committee in referring to the delay in the completion of the Coroner's report.

#### 4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2015-2016

#### 4.1 Allocation of question time

The committee noted that under the resolution establishing General Purpose Standing Committees, the sequence of questions to be asked at hearings is to alternate between opposition, crossbench and government members, with equal time allocated to each, unless the committee decides otherwise.

#### 4.2 Order for examination of portfolios

The committee noted its intention to examine all portfolios concurrently.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Colless: That with no questions asked by government members:

- On Wednesday 2 September 2015, the portfolio of Industry, Resources and Energy be examined from 2.00 pm until 4.00 pm
- On Friday 4 September 2015, the portfolio of Primary Industries, Lands and Water be examined from 9.00 am until 11.40 am and the portfolio of Environment and Heritage be examined from 2.00 pm until 4.00 pm.

#### 4.3 Witnesses

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That the committee invite the following additional witnesses:

- Industry, Resources and Energy: Executive Director – Mineral Resources (position previously held by Mr Brad Mullard)
- Primary Industries, Lands and Water: Dr Geoff Allan, Executive Director, Fisheries NSW
- Environment, Heritage:
  - Dr Tracey Avery, Director – Heritage
  - Mr Michael Wright, Acting Deputy Chief Executive, National Parks and Wildlife Service.

#### 5. Next meeting

The committee adjourned at 2.20 pm until 1.45 pm, Wednesday 2 September 2015 in the Macquarie Room (*Industry, Resources and Energy*).

Beverly Duffy  
Committee Clerk

#### Minutes no. 3

Wednesday 2 September 2015

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 1.45 pm

#### 1. Members present

Mr Brown, *Chair*  
Mr Veitch, *Deputy Chair*  
Mr Buckingham  
Mr Colless  
Mr Franklin (substituting for Mr Pearce)  
Mr MacDonald  
Mr Searle (substituting for Ms Sharpe)  
Dr Kaye (participating)

#### 2. Draft minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That draft minutes no. 2 be confirmed.

### 3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

#### ***Received:***

- 18 August 2015 – Email from Mr James Piggott, Office of Hon Niall Blair MLC, Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Lands and Water, confirming the additional witness requested by the committee.
- 18 August 2015 - Email from Mr Berge Okosdinossian, Office of Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy advising of unavailability of additional witness requested by the committee and requesting further information on the witnesses required by the committee (previously circulated)
- 20 August 2015 – Correspondence received - Email from the office of the Hon Minister Mark Speakman responding to a request of the committee for additional witnesses to the Budget Estimates hearing
- \*\*\*
- 26 August 2015 - Email from the Office of Hon Anthony Roberts MP regarding the additional witness/es requested by the committee, and advising that the existing witnesses can address the issues of mining licences, mining approvals and matters concerning coal seam gas.
- 31 August 2015 - Email from the Office of Hon Anthony Roberts MP advising of an additional witness who will be attending the hearing.
- 1 September 2015 – Email from the Office of the Hon Anthony Roberts MP advising of an update to the witness list.

#### ***Sent:***

- 14 August 2015 – Letter from Committee Director to Hon Niall Blair MLC, Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Lands and Water – requesting additional witness to Budget Estimates hearing on 4 September 2015.
- 14 August 2015 – Letter from Committee Director to Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy – requesting additional witness to Budget Estimates hearing on 2 September 2015.
- 14 August 2015 – Letter from Committee Director to Hon Mark Speakman MP, Minister for the Environment and Minister for Heritage – requesting additional witnesses to Budget Estimates hearing on 4 September 2015.
- 19 August 2015 - Email from Committee Director to Office of Hon Anthony Roberts MP confirming further information requested from the committee regarding an additional witness to the Budget Estimates hearing on 2 September 2015.
- 27 August 2015 – Email from Committee Director to the committee relaying the response received from the office of the Hon Anthony Roberts on the unavailability of the additional witness to the Budget Estimates hearing on 2 September 2015.

### 4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2015-2016

#### **4.1 Public hearing: Budget Estimates 2015-2016 – Industry, Resources and Energy**

Witnesses, the public and media were admitted.

The chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters. The chair noted that members of Parliament swear an oath to their office, and therefore do not need to be sworn prior to giving evidence before a committee.

The Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy was admitted.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Mr Simon Smith, Secretary, NSW Department of Industry
- Ms Kylie Hargreaves, Deputy Secretary, Resources and Energy
- Dr Chris Yeats, Executive Director, Geological Survey of NSW

The chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio of Industry, Resources and Energy open for examination.

The Minister and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

Minister Roberts tendered the following documents:

- Map of PEL457 – ERM Gas Pty Ltd

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 4.01 pm.

The public and media withdrew.

#### **4.2 Tendered documents**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That the committee accept and publish the following documents tendered during the Industry, Resources and Energy hearing held on Wednesday 2 September 2015:

- Map of PEL457 – ERM Gas Pty Ltd, tendered by the Hon Anthony Roberts MP.

#### **4.3 Supplementary hearings**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Colless: That the committee hold a further meeting to deliberate on whether to hold supplementary hearings for the portfolio of Industry, Resources and Energy on a date to be determined following receipt of answers to questions on notice.

### **5. Adjournment**

The committee adjourned at 4.04 pm, until 8.45 am, Friday 4 September 2015, Jubilee Room (*Primary Industries, Lands and Water*).

Rebecca Main

**Clerk to the Committee**

#### **Minutes no. 4**

Friday 4 September 2015

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 8.51 am

#### **1. Members present**

Mr Brown, *Chair*

Mr Veitch, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Buckingham

Mr Colless

Mr Franklin (substituting for Mr Pearce)

Mr MacDonald

Ms Sharpe

Dr Faruqi (participating from 10.50am)

Mr Pearson (participating)

Mr Shoebridge (participating from 11.19am)

## 2. Correspondence:

The committee noted the following item of correspondence:

### *Sent:*

17 August 2015 – Letter from the Hon Robert Brown MLC, Chair, to the Deputy State Coroner for New South Wales regarding the Wambelong Fire Enquiry.

## 3. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2015-2016

### 3.1 Public hearing: Budget Estimates 2015-2016 – Primary Industries, Lands and Water

Witnesses, the public and media were admitted.

The chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters. The chair noted that members of Parliament swear an oath to their office, and therefore do not need to be sworn prior to giving evidence before a committee.

Minister Blair was admitted.

The following witnesses were examined under a former oath:

- Mr Simon Smith, Secretary, NSW Department of Industry.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Mr Scott Hansen, Director General, Department of Primary Industries
- Ms Alison Stone, Deputy Director General, Land and Natural Resources
- Mr Gavin Hanlon, Deputy Director General, DPI
- Mr Eric De Rooy, General Manager, Service Delivery, Sydney Water
- Jeremy Bath, Group Manager, Public Affairs, Hunter Water
- Mr David Harris, Chief Executive Officer, Water NSW
- Mr Nick Roberts, Chief Executive Officer, Forestry Corp
- Dr Geoff Allan, Executive Director, Fisheries NSW
- Mrs Alexandra Anthony, Acting Chair of the Board of Chairs, Local Land Services

The chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio of Primary Industries, Lands and Water open for examination.

The Minister and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

Dr Faruqi joined the meeting.

Mr Smith withdrew at 11.00am.

Mr Shoebridge joined the meeting.

Minister Blair tendered the following documents:

- Local Land Services Annual Report – Consumer response
- Department of Primary Industries – NSW Farm Incursion Policy.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 11.45 am.

The public and media withdrew.

### 3.2 Tendered documents

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That the committee accept and publish the following documents tendered during the Primary Industries, Lands and Water hearing held on Friday 4 September 2015:

- Local Land Services Annual Report - Consumer response tendered by Minister Blair
- Department of Primary Industries – NSW Farm Incursion Policy tendered by Minister Blair.

### 3.3 Supplementary hearings

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Colless: That the committee hold a further meeting to deliberate on whether to hold supplementary hearings for the portfolio of Primary Industries, Lands and Water on a date to be determined following receipt of answers to questions on notice.

## 4. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 11.46 am until, 1.45 pm.

Rebecca Main  
Clerk to the Committee

## Minutes no. 5

Friday 4 September 2015  
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5  
Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 1.50 pm

### 1. Members present

Mr Brown, *Chair*  
Mr Veitch, *Deputy Chair*  
Mr Colless  
Dr Faruqi (substituting for Mr Buckingham)  
Mr Khan (substituting for Mr Pearce)  
Mr MacDonald  
Ms Sharpe  
Mr Pearson (participating)  
Mr Shoebridge (participating) (from 3.17 pm until 3.30 pm)

### 2. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2015-2016

#### 2.1 Public hearing: Budget Estimates 2015-2016 – Environment, Heritage

Witnesses, the public and media were admitted.

The chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters. The chair noted that members of Parliament swear an oath to their office, and therefore do not need to be sworn prior to giving evidence before a committee.

Minister Speakman was admitted.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Mr Barry Buffier, Chair and Chief Executive, Environment Protection Authority
- Mr Terry Bailey, Chief Executive Officer, Office of Environment and Heritage

The chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Environment, Heritage open for examination.

The Minister and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

Mr Shoebridge joined the meeting

Mr Shoebridge left the meeting.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 4.02 pm.

The public and media withdrew.

### 3. Supplementary hearings

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Colless: That the committee hold a further meeting to deliberate on whether to hold supplementary hearings for the portfolios of Environment, Heritage on a date to be determined following receipt of answers to questions on notice.

### 4. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 4.02 pm, *sine die*.

Stewart Smith

**Clerk to the Committee**

### Minutes no. 6

Thursday 1 October 2015

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

Room 1136, Parliament House, Sydney, at 10.00 am

#### 1. Members present

Mr Brown, *Chair*

Mr Buckingham, *Deputy Chair* (by teleconference)

Mr Colless (by teleconference)

Mr Macdonald

Mr Pearce

Ms Sharpe

Mr Veitch

#### 2. Minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Macdonald: That draft minutes no. 5 be confirmed.

#### 3. Correspondence

##### **Received:**

- 8 September 2015 – Email from Mr Barry Buffier, Office for Environment and Heritage to Hon Robert Brown, Chair – requesting to clarify a response given at budget estimates hearing.
- 28 September 2015 - Letter from Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy, answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions.



- 29 September 2015 – Letter from Hone Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy, amending his answer to supplementary question number 121.
- 29 September 2015 – Letter received from Magistrate Hugh Dillon, Deputy State Coroner of New South Wales – enclosing a copy of the coronial inquiry report into the Wambelong Fire.
- 30 September 2015 – Letter from Hon Niall Blair MP, Minister for Primary Industries, Lands and Water, answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions.
- 30 September 2015 – Letter from Hon Mark Speakman MP, Minister for Environment, Energy, answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions.

**Sent:**

- 7 September 2015 - Email from Committee Director to Mr Barry Buffier, Officer for Environment and Heritage – advising that the committee has agree to note the clarification in evidence and revise transcript.
- 7 September 2015 – Letter from Committee Director to Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy – attaching transcript of evidence with questions on notice highlighted, supplementary questions and instructions on how to correct the transcript and return answers to questions.
- 9 September 2015 – Letter from Committee Director to Hon Niall Blair MP, Minister for Primary Industries, Lands and Water– attaching transcript of evidence with questions on notice highlighted, supplementary questions and instructions on how to correct the transcript and return answers to questions.
- 9 September 2015 – Letter from Committee Director to Hon Mark Speakman MP, Minister for Environment, heritage – attaching transcript of evidence with questions on notice highlighted, supplementary questions and instructions on how to correct the transcript and return answers to questions.
- \*\*\*

**4. Supplementary hearings**

Ms Sharpe moved: That the committee hold a supplementary hearing to consider matters relating to the Industry, Resources and Energy portfolio.

Question put.

The committee divided.

Ayes: Mr Buckingham, Ms Sharpe, Mr Veitch.

Noes: Mr Brown, Mr Colless, Mr Macdonald, Mr Pearce.

Question resolved in the negative.

Mr Veitch moved: That the committee hold a supplementary hearing to consider matters relating to the Primary Industries, Lands and Water portfolios.

Question put.

The committee divided.

Ayes: Mr Buckingham, Ms Sharpe, Mr Veitch.

Noes: Mr Brown, Mr Colless, Mr Macdonald, Mr Pearce

Question resolved in the negative.

Ms Sharpe moved: That the committee hold a supplementary hearing to consider matters relating to the Environment, Heritage portfolio.

Question put.

The committee divided.

Ayes: Mr Buckingham, Ms Sharpe, Mr Veitch.

Noes: Mr Brown, Mr Colless, Mr Macdonald, Mr Pearce.

Question resolved in the negative.

**5. Adjournment**

The committee adjourned at 10.05 am, *sine die*.

Madeleine Foley

**Clerk to the Committee**

**Draft minutes no. 7**

Thursday 12 November 2015

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

Members' Lounge, Parliament House, Sydney at 1.01 pm

**1. Members present**

Mr Brown, *Chair*

Mr Veitch, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Colless

Mr Macdonald

Ms Sharpe

**2. Previous minutes**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That draft minutes no. 6 be confirmed.

**3. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2015-2016 – Consideration of chair's draft report**

The chair submitted his draft report entitled *Budget Estimates 2015-2016* which, having been previously circulated, was taken as being read.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Colless:

- That the draft report be the report of the committee and that the committee present the report to the House;
- That the transcripts of evidence, tabled documents, answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions, and correspondence relating to the inquiry be tabled in the House with the report;
- That upon tabling, all unpublished transcripts of evidence, tabled documents, answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions, and correspondence relating to the inquiry, be published by the committee, except for those documents kept confidential by resolution of the committee;
- That the committee secretariat correct any typographical, grammatical and formatting errors prior to tabling;
- That dissenting statements be provided to the secretariat within 24 hours after receipt of the draft minutes of the meeting;
- That the report be tabled on Tuesday 17 November 2015.

**4. Adjournment**

The committee adjourned at 1.02 pm *sine die*.

Madeleine Foley

**Clerk to the Committee**