



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 7

# Budget Estimates 2022-2023



Report 17

December 2022

7

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Portfolio Committee No. 7 - Planning and Environment

# **Budget Estimates 2022-2023**

Ordered to be printed 16 December 2022 according to  
Standing Order 231

**New South Wales. Parliament. Legislative Council. Portfolio Committee No. 7 - Planning and Environment. Report no. 17.**

Budget Estimates 2022-2023

“December 2022”.

Chair: Ms Sue Higginson, MLC



A catalogue record for this book is available from the National Library of Australia

ISBN 978-1-922960-13-9

## Table of contents

	Terms of reference	iv
	Committee details	vii
	Chair's foreword	ix
Chapter 1	Introduction	1
	Budget Estimates 2022-2023	1
	Hearings	1
	Transcripts, questions on notice and supplementary questions	2
Chapter 2	Issues raised during hearings	3
	Environment and Heritage	3
	Local Government	3
	Planning, Homes	4
Appendix 1	Witnesses at hearings	5
Appendix 2	Minutes	9

## Terms of reference

The Budget Estimates resolution and schedule was agreed to by the House on 22 June 2022, referring the Budget Estimates and related papers for 2022-2023 to the Portfolio Committees for inquiry and report and is reproduced, as amended on 10 August 2022, as follows<sup>1</sup>:

- (1) That the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2022-2023 presenting the amounts to be appropriated from the Consolidated Fund be referred to the Portfolio Committees for inquiry and report.
- (2) That, further to the resolution of the House of 16 November 2021 adopting the 2022 sitting calendar, the 2022- 2023 initial budget estimates hearings be scheduled as follows:

**Day One: Monday 22 August 2022**

PC 5 Attorney General  
PC 1 Treasurer, Energy

**Day Two: Tuesday 23 August 2022**

PC 3 Education and Early Learning  
PC 7 Environment and Heritage

**Day Three: Wednesday 24 August 2022**

PC 6 Metropolitan Roads, Women's Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence

**Day Four: Thursday 25 August 2022**

PC 7 Local Government  
PC 3 Skills and Training, Science, Innovation and Technology

**Day Five: Friday 26 August 2022**

PC 6 Transport, Veterans, Western Sydney  
PC 1 Finance, Employee Relations

**Day Six: Monday 29 August 2022**

PC 5 Corrections  
PC 7 Planning, Homes

**Day Seven: Tuesday 30 August 2022**

PC 4 Customer Service and Digital Government  
PC 5 Families and Communities, Disability Services

**Day Eight: Wednesday 31 August 2022**

PC 6 Regional Transport and Roads  
PC 5 Deputy Premier, Regional NSW, Police

**Day Nine: Thursday 1 September 2022**

PC 1 Enterprise, Investment and Trade, Sport  
PC 5 Multiculturalism, Seniors

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<sup>1</sup> *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 22 June 2022, pp 3481-3482, as amended *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 10 August 2022, p 3563.

**Day Ten: Friday 2 September 2022**  
 PC 5 Emergency Services and Resilience, Flood Recovery  
 PC 4 Lands and Water, Hospitality and Racing

**Day Eleven: Monday 5 September 2022**  
 PC 4 Agriculture and Western NSW  
 PC 1 Aboriginal Affairs, Arts, Regional Youth, Tourism

**Day Twelve: Tuesday 6 September 2022**  
 PC 2 Women, Regional Health, Mental Health  
 PC 6 Infrastructure, Cities and Active Transport  
 PC 1 The Legislature

**Day Thirteen: Wednesday 7 September 2022**  
 PC 4 Small Business and Fair Trading  
 PC 2 Health  
 PC 1 Premier

- (3) That for the purposes of the 2022-2023 initial budget estimates hearings:
- (a) each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 11.00 am, and from 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, then from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm, and from 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions at the end of the morning and afternoon session, if required,
  - (b) the portfolio of The Legislature be examined concurrently by Opposition, Crossbench and Government members from 9.30 am until 12.30 pm.
- (4) That, further to the resolution of the House of 16 November 2021 adopting the 2022 sitting calendar, the 2022-2023 supplementary budget estimates hearings be held over five days from 24 October to 28 October 2022.
- (5) That for the purposes of the 2022-2023 initial and supplementary budget estimates hearings:
- (a) the committees must hear evidence in public,
  - (b) the committees may ask for explanations from ministers, parliamentary secretaries or officers of departments, statutory bodies or corporations, relating to the items of proposed expenditure,
  - (c) ministers be invited to appear for the morning sessions only unless requested by committees to appear also for the afternoon session,
  - (d) witnesses, including ministers, may not make an opening statement before a committee commences questions,
  - (e) members may lodge supplementary questions with the committee clerk by 5.00 pm within two business days following a hearing, and
  - (f) answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions are to be published, except those answers for which confidentiality is requested, after they have been circulated to committee members.
- (6) That the committees present a final report to the House by 23 December 2022.

On 21 September 2022, the Budget Estimates resolution and schedule, as it relates to the Corrections hearing, was varied by the House as follows<sup>2</sup>:

- (1) That this House notes that:
  - (a) on Wednesday 22 June 2022, the House adopted a schedule of initial budget estimates hearings for 2022-2023 over 13 working days from Monday 22 August to Wednesday 7 September 2022, and
  - (b) the following hearing was unable to be conducted as scheduled by Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Regional NSW and Stronger Communities due to the unavailability of the Minister:

**Day Six: Monday 29 August 2022**  
PC 5 Corrections

- (2) That in view of the inability of Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Regional NSW and Stronger Communities to conduct this hearing, the committee be authorised to undertake the hearing on a date of its choosing under the same arrangements as originally agreed to by the House on Wednesday 22 June 2022.

According to a resolution of Portfolio Committee No. 5 - Regional NSW and Stronger Communities, the Corrections hearing was rescheduled to Monday, 24 October 2022.

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<sup>2</sup> *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 21 September 2022, p 3645.



## Committee details

### Committee members

<b>Ms Sue Higginson MLC</b>	The Greens	<i>Chair</i>
<b>The Hon Mark Pearson MLC</b>	Animal Justice Party	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
<b>The Hon Scott Barrett MLC</b>	The Nationals	
<b>The Hon Rose Jackson MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party	
<b>The Hon Aileen MacDonald MLC</b>	Liberal Party	
<b>The Hon Shayne Mallard MLC</b>	Liberal Party	
<b>The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party	

\* The Hon Aileen MacDonald MLC replaced the Hon Catherine Cusack MLC as a substantive member of the committee from 16 August 2022. The Hon Catherine Cusack MLC was a substantive member of the committee to 9 August 2022.

### Non-substantive members who attended the hearings

<b>Ms Abigail Boyd MLC</b>	The Greens
<b>The Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party
<b>Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC</b>	The Greens
<b>Mr Justin Field MLC</b>	Independent
<b>The Hon Mick Veitch MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party

### Contact details

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**Secretariat**

<b>Allison Stowe</b>	Principal Council Officer
<b>Andrew Ratchford</b>	Council Officer
<b>Gareth Perkins</b>	Administration Officer
<b>Holly McDonald</b>	Working in the Legislative Council program
<b>Daisy D'Souza</b>	Working in the Legislative Council program
<b>Rhia Victorino</b>	Director

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## Chair's foreword

I am pleased to present this report on the inquiry into Budget Estimates 2022-2023. 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 Legislative Council.

Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment is responsible for the scrutiny of the following portfolio areas:

- Environment and Heritage
- Local Government
- Planning, Homes.

The key evidence gathering mechanism of this inquiry is through the conduct of public hearings. This report lists the key issues raised during the hearings. Transcripts, tabled documents and additional answers provided after the hearings are published on the [inquiry's webpage](#).

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.



Ms Sue Higginson MLC  
**Committee Chair**



# Chapter 1 Introduction

The inquiry into Budget Estimates is one of the key mechanisms for parliamentary committees to scrutinise government expenditure, performance and effectiveness. It holds ministers and government officials to account and provides a greater level of transparency to the public.

The inquiry is conducted annually by the Legislative Council's Portfolio Committees. Each committee examines the budget estimates of its responsible portfolios, with ministers and senior public servants as the primary witnesses. The evidence taking process of the inquiry consists of answers provided during public hearings, including answers to questions on notice, and answers to post-hearing written questions (known as supplementary questions). There is no provision for written submissions.

## Budget Estimates 2022-2023

- 1.1 On 16 November 2021 and 22 June 2022, the Legislative Council resolved that hearings for Budget Estimates 2022-2023 be held over 13 days from 22 August to 7 September 2022, and supplementary hearings be scheduled over five days from 24 to 28 October 2022.<sup>3</sup>
- 1.2 The Budget Estimates resolution and schedule was subsequently agreed to by the House on 22 June 2022, referring the Budget Estimates and related papers for the 2022-2023 financial year to the Portfolio Committees for inquiry and report by Friday 23 December 2022.<sup>4</sup>
- 1.3 Following changes to the administration of the government, the hearing schedule was amended by the House on 10 August 2022 to reflect the changed ministerial responsibilities.<sup>5</sup>
- 1.4 On 21 September 2022, the Budget Estimates resolution and schedule was further varied by the House to facilitate the postponement of the initial hearing of Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Regional NSW and Stronger Communities into the Corrections portfolio, due to the unavailability of the Minister.<sup>6</sup>
- 1.5 The budget estimates resolution establishing the inquiry, which sets out the rules for the inquiry, is reproduced on page iv.

## Hearings

- 1.6 The committee held three public hearings as follows:
  - Tuesday 23 August 2022: Environment and Heritage
  - Thursday 25 August 2022: Local Government
  - Monday 29 August 2022: Planning, Homes.

<sup>3</sup> *Minutes*, Legislative Council, 16 November 2021, p 2713; and *Minutes*, Legislative Council, 22 June 2022, pp 3481-3482.

<sup>4</sup> *Minutes*, Legislative Council, 22 June 2022, pp 3481-3482.

<sup>5</sup> *Minutes*, Legislative Council 10 August 2022, p 3563.

<sup>6</sup> *Minutes*, Legislative Council, 21 September 2022, p 3645.

## **Transcripts, questions on notice and supplementary questions**

- 1.7** Transcripts of the hearings, questions taken on notice, supplementary questions and answers to these questions are available on the Budget Estimates webpage at: [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/budgetestimates](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/budgetestimates).

## Chapter 2 Issues raised during hearings

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

### Environment and Heritage

**2.1** A hearing examining the portfolio of Environment and Heritage was held on Tuesday 23 August 2022. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- NSW State of the Environment report, including rates of land clearing, invasive species, and health of the wetlands
- Increase in the number of threatened species
- Kangaroo management programs
- Floodplain harvesting, including water sharing plans
- Coal ash
- Koala populations and habitat
- Aboriginal cultural heritage.

### Local Government

**2.2** A hearing examining the portfolio of Local Government was held on Thursday 25 August 2022. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of this portfolio:

- Review of the Councillor Misconduct Framework
- Councillors' property interests and relations or connections to property developers
- Flood recovery and assistance, including funding and grant programs for local councils in response to the 2022 Northern NSW floods
- Amalgamation and de-amalgamation of local councils and the Local Government Boundaries Commission
- Issues affecting animals, including the Pet Registry, Rehoming Practices Review, and pounds
- Council rates, the rate peg and the review of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal.

## Planning, Homes

**2.3** A hearing examining the portfolios of Planning, Homes was held on Monday 29 August 2022. The following issues were raised during the committee's examination of these portfolios:

- Gender balance in senior leadership at the Department of Planning and Environment
- Housing supply, including:
  - affordable, diverse and social housing
  - Departmental approaches to non-compliance with delivery
  - development consent
  - strategic planning for growth areas
- State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPP), including the Design and Place SEPP and the Sustainable Building SEPP
- Modelling of emissions from coal mining and development industries, in relation to NSW Government targets for emissions reduction
- Development consent for new coal mines, including the reliance on 'reasonable and feasible' measures in approvals
- Changes to planning controls in areas vulnerable to flooding in response to recommendations in the Report of the 2022 NSW Flood Inquiry (O'Kane and Fuller report).



## Appendix 1 Witnesses at hearings

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
<b>Tuesday 23 August 2022</b> <b>Jubilee Room</b> <b>Parliament House, Sydney</b>	Hon James Griffin MP	Minister for Environment and Heritage
	Mr Atticus Fleming	Acting Coordinator-General, Environment, Energy and Science, Department of Planning and Environment
	Mr Tony Chappel	Chief Executive Officer, NSW Environment Protection Authority
	Ms Carmen Dwyer	Executive Director, Regulatory Operations Regional, NSW Environment Protection Authority
	Mr Dean Knudson	Deputy Secretary, Biodiversity, Conservation and Science, Department of Planning and Environment
	Ms Naomi Stephens	Acting Deputy Secretary, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Planning and Environment
	Mr Sam Kidman	Executive Director, Heritage NSW, Department of Planning and Environment
	Ms Michelle Dumazel	Executive Director, Biodiversity and Conservation Division, Department of Planning and Environment
Mr Andrew Nicholls	Executive Director, Business Delivery, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Planning and Environment	

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
	Mr Anthony Williams	Acting Executive Director, Regulatory Practice and Environmental Solutions, NSW Environment Protection Authority
	Ms Nancy Chang	Executive Director, Regulatory Policy Initiatives and Advice, NSW Environment Protection Authority
	Mr Alan Goodwin	Acting CEO, Biodiversity Conservation Trust, Department of Planning and Environment
	Dr Kate Wilson	Executive Director, Climate Change and Sustainability, Office of Energy and Climate Change, Treasury NSW
	Ms Elizabeth Owers	Director, Customer Service, Heritage NSW, Department of Planning and Environment
	Dr Georgina Kelly	Executive Director, Science, Economics and Insights, Department of Planning and Environment
	Ms Trish Harrup	Acting Executive Director, Conservation and Aboriginal Partnerships, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Planning and Environment
	Mr Stephen Beaman	Executive Director, Regulatory Operations Metro, NSW Environment Protection Authority
	Mr Bryce Wilde	Executive Director, Natural Resources Commission, Natural Resources Commission
	Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte	NRC Commissioner, Natural Resources Commission

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position and Organisation</b>
	Mr Matthew Riley	Director, Climate and Atmospheric Science, Department of Planning and Environment
<b>Thursday 25 August 2022</b>	Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP	Minister for Local Government
<b>Jubilee Room</b>	Mr Michael Cassel	Secretary, Department of Planning and Environment
<b>Parliament House, Sydney</b>	Ms Melanie Hawyes	Deputy Secretary, Crown Lands and Local Government, Department of Planning and Environment
	Ms Ally Dench	Executive Director, Office of Local Government, Department of Planning and Environment
	Mr Keith Baxter	Director, Emergency Recovery, Office of Local Government, Department of Planning and Environment
	Ms Melissa Gibbs	Director, Policy and Sector Development, Office of Local Government, Department of Planning and Environment
	Ms Karin Bishop	Director, Sector Performance & Intervention, Office of Local Government, Department of Planning and Environment
	Ms Michelle Fletcher	Director, Marine, Coastal, Estuaries and Flood, Department of Planning and Environment
<b>Monday 29 August 2022</b>	Hon Anthony Roberts MP	Minister for Planning, and Minister for Homes
<b>Jubilee Room</b>	Mr Michael Cassel	Secretary, Department of Planning and Environment
<b>Parliament House, Sydney</b>		

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position and Organisation</b>
	Mr Marcus Ray	Group Deputy Secretary, Planning & Assessment, Department of Planning and Environment
	Mr Alexander Wendler	Chief Executive Officer, Landcom
	Mr Simon Newport	Acting Chief Executive, NSW Land and Housing Corporation
	Mr David Gainsford	Deputy Secretary, Development Assessment, Department of Planning and Environment
	Mr Brett Whitworth	Deputy Secretary, Planning Policy, Department of Planning and Environment
	Mr Leon Walker	Deputy Secretary, Property and Development, Department of Planning and Environment
	Mr Tim Raimond	Deputy Secretary, Strategic Land Use Planning, Department of Planning and Environment
	Mr Shaun Smith	Group Deputy Secretary, Corporate Services, Department of Planning and Environment
	Mr Clay Preshaw	Executive Director, Energy Resources and Industry Assessment, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
	Mr Stephen O'Donoghue	Director Resource Assessments, Department of Planning and Environment.

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## Appendix 2 Minutes

### Minutes no. 80

Wednesday 20 July 2022

Portfolio Committee No. 7 - Planning and Environment

Via Webex, at 3.03 pm

#### 1. Members present

Ms Higginson, *Chair*

Mr Pearson, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Barrett

Ms Cusack

Ms Jackson

Mr Mallard

Mr Secord (participating for the purposes of the inquiry into Budget Estimates 2022-2023)

Ms Sharpe

#### 2. Committee membership

The committee noted that on Tuesday, 28 June 2022, Ms Higginson was elected as a member of the committee in place of Ms Faehrmann, resigned.

#### 3. Election of Chair

The committee noted that the Chair of the committee must be a non-government member.

The Committee Clerk called for nominations for the Chair.

Mr Pearson moved: That Ms Higginson be elected Chair of the committee.

There being no further nominations, the Clerk declared Ms Higginson elected Chair.

Ms Higginson took the Chair.

#### 4. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Pearson: That draft minutes no. 79 be confirmed.

#### 5. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2022-2023 – procedural resolutions

The committee noted that the Budget Estimates timetable for 2022-2023 was agreed to by the House, with hearings commencing at 9.30 am and concluding by 5.15 pm. Below is a table of Portfolio Committee No. 7 hearings:

Date	Portfolio
Tuesday 23 August 2022	Environment and Heritage
Thursday 25 August 2022	Local Government
Monday 29 August 2022	Planning, Homes

### 5.1 Allocation of question time and total hearing time

The committee noted that committee to note that under the Budget Estimates 2022-2023 resolution each portfolio, except The Legislature, will be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 11.00 am, and from 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, then from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm, and from 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions at the end of the morning and afternoon session, if required.

### 5.2 Witness requests

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That for the portfolio of Environment and Heritage the committee invite the following witnesses:

- Hon James Griffin MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage
- Mr Atticus Fleming, Acting Coordinator-General, Environment, Energy and Science, Department of Planning and Environment
- Ms Jacqueline Moore, Acting Chief Executive Officer, NSW Environment Protection Authority
- Mr Dean Knudson, Deputy Secretary, Biodiversity, Conservation and Science, Department of Planning and Environment
- Mr Andrew Nicholls, Acting Deputy Secretary, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Planning and Environment
- Mr Sam Kidman, Executive Director, Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Ms Michelle Dumazel, Executive Director, Biodiversity and Conservation Division, Department of Planning and Environment
- Ms Sharon Molloy, Executive Director, Biodiversity and Conservation Division, Department of Planning and Environment
- Mr Bryce Wilde, Executive Director, Natural Resources Commission, Natural Resources Commission
- Mr Paul Elton, CEO, Biodiversity Conservation Trust, Department of Planning and Environment
- Mr Frank Howarth, Chair, Heritage Council
- The Hon Robyn Parker, Chair, State Heritage Register Committee
- Ms Cristien Hickey, Acting Executive Director, Climate Change and Sustainability, Department of Planning and Environment
- Mr Matthew Riley, Director, Climate and Atmospheric Science
- NSW Department of Planning and Environment Science Division – State wide Landcover and Tree Study program lead.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That for the portfolio of Local Government the committee invite the following witnesses:

- Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Minister for Local Government
- Mr Michael Cassel, Secretary, Planning and Environment
- Ms Melanie Hawyes, Deputy Secretary, Crown Lands and Local Government, Planning and Environment
- Ms Ally Dench, Executive Director, Local Government, Planning and Environment
- Ms Melissa Gibbs, Director, Policy and Sector Development, Office of Local Government
- Ms Kimberly Everett, Director, Case Management, Office of Local Government
- Ms Karin Bishop, Director, Sector Performance & Intervention, Office of Local Government
- Mr Keith Baxter, Director, Emergency Recovery, Office of Local Government.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That for the portfolios of Planning, Homes the committee invite the following witnesses:

- Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Planning and Homes
- Mr Mick Cassel, Secretary, Department of Planning and Environment
- Mr Marcus Ray, Group Deputy Secretary, Planning & Assessment, Department of Planning and Environment
- Mr Alexander Wendler, CEO, Landcom

- Ms Deborah Brill, Acting Chief Executive, NSW Land and Housing Corporation
- Mr Michael Wright, Group Deputy Secretary, Housing & Property, Department of Planning and Environment
- Mr Brett Whitworth, Deputy Secretary, Planning Policy, Department of Planning and Environment
- Mr Leon Walker, Deputy Secretary, Property and Development, Department of Planning and Environment
- Mr Tim Raimond, Deputy Secretary, Strategic Land Use Planning, Department of Planning and Environment
- Ms Anthea Sargeant, Acting Deputy Secretary, Development Assessment, Department of Planning and Environment
- Ms Anita Mitchell, Chief Executive, Placemaking NSW
- Mr Clay Preshaw, Executive Director, Energy Resources and Industry Assessment, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
- Mr Stephen O'Donoghue, Director Resource Assessments, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

The committee noted that where a witness no longer occupies a position, invitations will be made based on the position.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee submit any further witness requests to the secretariat by 5.00 pm, Friday 22 July 2022.

### 5.3 Witness appearance time

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2022-2023 resolution ministers are invited to appear for the morning sessions only, 9.30 am to 12.45 pm, unless requested by the committee to appear also for the afternoon session.

### 5.4 Recording of hearing

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Mallard: That all Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearings be recorded and that these recordings be placed on the inquiry webpage as soon as practicable after the hearing.

## 6. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 3.17 pm, *sine die*.

Rhia Victorino  
Committee Clerk

## Minutes no. 82

Tuesday 23 August 2022

Portfolio Committee No. 7 - Planning and Environment

Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9.20 am

### 1. Members present

Ms Higginson, *Chair*

Mr Pearson, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Barrett

Ms Boyd (participating)

Mr Field (participating, via videoconference)

Ms Jackson

Mr Mallard

Ms Sharpe

**2. Apologies**

Mrs MacDonald

**3. Previous minutes**

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That draft minutes no. 80 be confirmed.

**4. Correspondence**

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

***Received:***

- 8 August 2022 – Email from Aron Mola, Office of Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Minister for Local Government, to Budget Estimates secretariat returning witness list and noting witness changes for a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing on 25 August 2022
- 8 August 2022 – Email from Kim Preston-Hiney, Office of Hon James Griffin MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage, to Budget Estimates secretariat regarding witness attendance for a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing on 23 August 2022
- 10 August 2022 – Email from Dylan Whitelaw, Office of Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Planning, and Minister for Homes, to Budget Estimates secretariat regarding witness attendance for a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing on 29 August 2022
- 15 August 2022 – Email from Kim Preston-Hiney, Office of Hon James Griffin MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage, to Budget Estimates secretariat returning witness list and noting witness changes for a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing on 23 August 2022
- 18 August 2022 – Email from Kim Preston-Hiney, Office of Hon James Griffin MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage, to Budget Estimates secretariat updating witness list and providing reasons for witness omissions for a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing on 23 August 2022
- 18 August 2022 – Email from Aron Mola, Office of Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Minister for Local Government, to Budget Estimates secretariat updating witness list and providing reasons for witness omissions for a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing on 25 August 2022.

***Sent:***

- 28 July 2022 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat, to Hon James Griffin MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage, issuing witness invitation requests for a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing on 23 August 2022
- 28 July 2022 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat, to Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Minister for Local Government, issuing witness invitation requests for a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing on 25 August 2022
- 28 July 2022 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat, to Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Planning, and Minister for Homes, issuing witness invitation requests for a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing on 29 August 2022
- 10 August 2022 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat, to Office of Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Planning, and Minister for Homes regarding amended Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing schedule and noting no change to a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing on 29 August 2022
- 17 August 2022 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat, to the Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Minister for Local Government, regarding amended witness invitation requests for a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing on 25 August 2022
- 17 August 2022 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat, to Hon James Griffin MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage, regarding witness invitation requests for a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing on 23 August 2022
- 18 August 2022 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat, to Aron Mola, Office of Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Minister for Local Government, confirming witness invitation requests for a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing on 25 August 2022



- 19 August 2022 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat, to Kim Preston-Hiney, Office of Hon James Griffin MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage, confirming witness invitation requests for a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing on 23 August 2022
- 19 August 2022 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat, to the Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Planning, and Minister for Homes regarding witness invitation requests for a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing on 29 August 2022.

## 5. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2022-2023 – initial hearings

### 5.1 Order for examination of portfolios

The committee noted the resolution of the House of 10 August 2022 amending the Budget Estimates 2022-2023 terms of reference.

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2022-2023 resolution each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 11.00 am, and from 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, then from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm, and from 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions at the end of the morning and afternoon sessions, if required.

The committee noted that, as previously agreed to via email, witness appearance times for the Budget Estimates 2022-2023 Environment and Heritage hearing have varied, with the following department staff to appear in the afternoon session only, from 2.00 pm until 5.30 pm:

- Mr Bryce Wilde, Executive Director, Natural Resources Commission, Natural Resources Commission
- Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte, NRC Commissioner, Natural Resources Commission
- Mr Matthew Riley, Director, Climate and Atmospheric Science
- The Hon Robyn Parker, Chair, State Heritage Register Committee, from 2.30 pm (via videoconference).

### 5.2 Tended documents

Ms Higginson tendered the following document:

- Natural Resources Commission, Final report – Coastal IFOA operations post 2019/20 wildfires, June 2021.

Mr Field tendered the following document:

- NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer, report entitled Advice on koala protection in the proposed new Private Native Forestry Codes of Practice, September 2021.

Mr Pearson moved: That the committee accept and publish the following documents:

- Natural Resources Commission, Final report – Coastal IFOA operations post 2019/20 wildfires, June 2021, tendered by Ms Higginson
- NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer, report entitled Advice on koala protection in the proposed new Private Native Forestry Codes of Practice, September 2021, tendered by Mr Field.

Question put.

The committee divided.

Ayes: Ms Higginson, Ms Jackson, Mr Pearson, Ms Sharpe

Noes: Mr Barrett, Mr Mallard.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

### 5.3 Public hearing: Environment and Heritage

Departmental witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The Hon James Griffin MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage, was 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 following witnesses were sworn:

- Mr Atticus Fleming, Acting Coordinator-General, Environment, Energy and Science, Department of Planning and Environment
- Mr Tony Chappel, Chief Executive Officer, NSW Environment Protection Authority
- Ms Carmen Dwyer, Executive Director, Regulatory Operations Regional, NSW Environment Protection Authority
- Mr Dean Knudson, Deputy Secretary, Biodiversity, Conservation and Science, Department of Planning and Environment
- Ms Naomi Stephens, Acting Deputy Secretary, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Planning and Environment
- Mr Sam Kidman, Executive Director, Heritage NSW, Department of Planning and Environment
- Ms Michelle Dumazel, Executive Director, Biodiversity and Conservation Division, Department of Planning and Environment
- Mr Andrew Nicholls, Executive Director, Business Delivery, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Planning and Environment
- Mr Anthony Williams, Acting Executive Director, Regulatory Practice and Environmental Solutions, NSW Environment Protection Authority
- Ms Nancy Chang, Executive Director, Regulatory Policy Initiatives and Advice, NSW Environment Protection Authority
- Mr Alan Goodwin, Acting CEO, Biodiversity Conservation Trust, Department of Planning and Environment
- Dr Kate Wilson, Executive Director, Climate Change and Sustainability, Office of Energy and Climate Change, Treasury NSW
- Ms Elizabeth Owers, Director, Customer Service, Heritage NSW, Department of Planning and Environment
- Dr Georgina Kelly, Executive Director, Science, Economics and Insights, Department of Planning and Environment
- Ms Trish Harrup, Acting Executive Director, Conservation and Aboriginal Partnerships, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Planning and Environment
- Mr Stephen Beaman, Executive Director, Regulatory Operations Metro, NSW Environment Protection Authority.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio of Environment and Heritage open for examination.

Ms Higginson tabled the following document:

- Natural Resources Commission, Final report – Coastal IFOA operations post 2019/20 wildfires, June 2021.

Mr Field tabled the following document:

- NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer, Advice on koala protection in the proposed new Private Native Forestry Codes of Practice, September 2021.

The Minister and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

Mr Chappel tendered the following document:

- Emails from the NSW Environment Protection Authority to the Office of Mr Justin Field MLC, regarding the disclosure of the Office of the Chief Scientist and Engineer report Advice on koala protection in the proposed new Private Native Forestry Codes of Practice, dated 12 and 16 August 2022.

The Minister withdrew at 12.58 pm.

Witnesses, the media and the public withdrew.

The committee proceeded to deliberate in private.

#### **5.4 Withdrawal of witnesses**

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the following witnesses be advised that they may withdraw from, or not attend, the hearing:

- Mr Andrew Nicholls, Executive Director, Business Delivery, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Planning and Environment
- Mr Anthony Williams, Acting Executive Director, Regulatory Practice and Environmental Solutions, NSW Environment Protection Authority
- Dr Kate Wilson, Executive Director, Climate Change and Sustainability, Office of Energy and Climate Change, Treasury NSW
- Ms Elizabeth Owers, Director, Customer Service, Heritage NSW, Department of Planning and Environment
- Dr Georgina Kelly, Executive Director, Science, Economics and Insights, Department of Planning and Environment
- Ms Trish Harrup, Acting Executive Director, Conservation and Aboriginal Partnerships, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Planning and Environment
- Mr Stephen Beaman, Executive Director, Regulatory Operations Metro, NSW Environment Protection Authority
- Hon Robyn Parker, Chair, Heritage Register Committee.

#### **5.5 Public hearing resumed: Environment and Heritage**

Witnesses, the media and the public were re-admitted.

Mr Andrew Nicholls, Mr Anthony Williams, Dr Kate Wilson, Ms Elizabeth Owers, Dr Georgina Kelly, Ms Trish Harrup, and Mr Stephen Beaman withdrew at 2.00 pm.

The following witnesses were admitted and sworn at 2.00 pm:

- Mr Bryce Wilde, Executive Director, Natural Resources Commission, Natural Resources Commission
- Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte, NRC Commissioner, Natural Resources Commission
- Mr Matthew Riley, Director, Climate and Atmospheric Science, Department of Planning and Environment.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 4.41 pm.

#### **5.6 Tended documents**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Mallard: That the committee accept and publish the following document, with redactions made to names of members' staff and specific contact details, tendered during the Environment and Heritage hearing held on Tuesday 23 August 2022:

- Emails from the NSW Environment Protection Authority to the Office of Mr Justin Field MLC, regarding the disclosure of the Office of the Chief Scientist and Engineer report Advice on koala protection in the proposed new Private Native Forestry Codes of Practice, dated 12 and 16 August 2022, tendered by Mr Chappel.

### 5.7 Supplementary hearings

The committee noted that, under the Budget Estimates resolution, supplementary hearings are scheduled for the week 24 October to 28 October 2022.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee defer its decision on whether to hold supplementary hearings for the portfolio of Environment and Heritage, until after the return of answers to supplementary questions.

## 6. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 4.49 pm, until 9.15 am, Thursday 25 August 2022, Jubilee Room, Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing – Local Government

Helen Hong

**Committee Clerk**

### Minutes no. 83

Thursday 25 August 2022

Portfolio Committee No. 7 - Planning and Environment

Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9.15 am

#### 1. Members present

Ms Higginson, *Chair*

Mr Pearson, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Barrett (via videoconference between 9.15 am and 10.01 am, then from 10.01 am)

Mr Buttigieg (substituting for Ms Sharpe)

Ms Jackson

Mr Mallard

#### 2. Apologies

Mrs MacDonald

#### 3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

##### **Received:**

- 24 August 2022 – Email from Cynthia Coppock to the Chair providing a submission to the Budget Estimates 2022-2023 inquiry
- 23 August 2022 – Correspondence from Ms Jacqueline Moore, Executive Director Legal and Corporate, NSW EPA to Chair, regarding the committee's decision on 23 August 2022 to table and publish the Office of the Chief Scientist and Engineer (OCSE) report entitled Advice on the koala protections in the proposed new Private Native Forestry Codes of Practice, September 2021
- 25 August 2022 – Email from Sandra Harris, Director Ministerial Services, Governance, Strategy and Coordination to Budget Estimates secretariat, regarding witness unavailability due to COVID-19 for a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing on 25 August 2022.

##### **Sent:**

- 23 August 2022 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Hon James Griffin MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage regarding witness attendance at a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing on 23 August 2022
- 23 August 2022 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Ms Robyn Parker, regarding witness attendance at a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing on 23 August 2022.

Mr Mallard moved: That the committee reconsider its decision on 23 August 2022 to publish the report by the Office of the Chief Scientist and Engineer (OCSE) 'Advice on the koala protections in the proposed new Private Native Forestry Codes of Practice'.

Question put.

The committee divided.

Ayes: Mr Mallard and Mr Barrett

Noes: Mr Buttigieg, Ms Jackson, Ms Higginson, Mr Pearson.

Question resolved in the negative.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Jackson: That the committee publish the correspondence from Ms Jacqueline Moore, regarding the committee's decision on 23 August 2022 to table and publish the Office of the Chief Scientist and Engineer (OCSE) report 'Advice on the koala protections in the proposed new Private Native Forestry Codes of Practice', with redactions of any individual names and contact details.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Jackson: That the committee write to Ms Jacqueline Moore to acknowledge receipt of the correspondence and to advise that the committee reconsidered its position regarding publication of the report by the Office of the Chief Scientist and Engineer (OCSE) 'Advice on the koala protections in the proposed new Private Native Forestry Codes of Practice' and reaffirmed its decision.

#### 4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2022-2023 – initial hearings

##### 4.1 Order for examination of portfolios

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2022-2023 resolution each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 11.00 am, and from 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, then from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm, and from 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions at the end of the morning and afternoon sessions, if required.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Jackson: That the committee forfeit the afternoon tea break and conclude the afternoon session at 3.45 pm.

##### 4.2 Public hearing: Local Government

Departmental witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Minister for Local Government, was 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 following witnesses were sworn:

- Mr Michael Cassel, Secretary, Department of Planning and Environment
- Ms Melanie Hawyes, Deputy Secretary, Crown Lands and Local Government, Department of Planning and Environment
- Ms Ally Dench, Executive Director, Office of Local Government, Department of Planning and Environment
- Mr Keith Baxter, Director, Emergency Recovery, Office of Local Government, Department of Planning and Environment
- Ms Melissa Gibbs, Director, Policy and Sector Development, Office of Local Government, Department of Planning and Environment
- Ms Karin Bishop, Director, Sector Performance & Intervention, Office of Local Government, Department of Planning and Environment
- Ms Michelle Fletcher, Director, Marine, Coastal, Estuaries and Flood, Department of Planning and Environment.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolio of Local Government open for examination.

The Minister and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

Mr Buttigieg tendered the following documents:

- Australian Securities and Investments Commission, Current and Historical Company Extract – HPA Management Services PTY LTD, 17 February 2022.
- Australian Securities and Investments Commission – Current and Historical Company Extract – HPA Holdings PTY LTD, 18 August 2022.
- Group of Local Government Candidates disclosure form.

Ms Higginson tendered the following document:

- Morrison Low, Office of Local Government, NSW Government, Lismore Council Needs Analysis Report, May 2022.

The Minister withdrew at 12:45 pm.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 3:44 pm.

#### **4.3 Tendered documents**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Pearson: That the committee accept and publish the following documents tendered during the Local Government hearing held on Thursday 25 August 2022:

- Australian Securities and Investments Commission – Current and Historical Company Extract - HPA Management Services PTY LTD – dated 17 February 2022 (4 pages), tendered by Mr Buttigieg
- Australian Securities and Investments Commission – Current and Historical Company Extract – HPA Holdings PTY LTD – 18 August 2022 (6 pages), tendered by Mr Buttigieg
- Group of Local Government Candidates disclosure form (10 pages), tendered by Mr Buttigieg
- Lismore Council Needs Analysis Report – May 2020 (38 pages plus annexes), tendered by Ms Higginson.

#### **5. Supplementary hearings**

The committee noted that, under the Budget Estimates resolution, supplementary hearings are scheduled for the week 24 October to 28 October 2022.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Pearson: That the committee defer its decision on whether to hold supplementary hearings for the portfolio of Local Government, until after the return of answers to supplementary questions.

#### **6. Adjournment**

The committee adjourned at 3:45pm, until 9.15 am, Monday 29 August, Jubilee Room, Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing – Planning, Homes

Emily Treeby  
**Committee Clerk**

**Minutes no. 84**

Monday 29 August 2022

Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment

Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney, at 9.15 am

**1. Members present**Ms Higginson, *Chair*Mr Pearson, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Buttigieg (substituting for Ms Sharpe until 1.00 pm)

Ms Faehrmann (participating, from 9.30 am until 5.00 pm)

Mr Field (participating via videoconference, until 3.00 pm)

Ms Jackson (until 5.00 pm)

Mrs MacDonald

Mr Mallard (from 11.00 am)

Mr Veitch (substituting for Ms Sharpe from 2.00 pm)

**2. Apologies**

Mr Barrett

**3. Correspondence**

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

***Received***

- 25 August 2022 – Email from Dylan Whitelaw, Office of Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Planning, and Minister to Homes, Budget Estimates secretariat regarding witness attendance for a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing on 29 August 2022
- 26 August 2022 – Email from Dylan Whitelaw, Office of Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Planning, and Minister to Homes, Budget Estimates secretariat confirming witness attendance for a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing on 29 August 2022.

***Sent:***

- 25 August 2022 – Letter from Chair to Jacqueline Moore, Executive Director Legal and Corporate, NSW Environment Protection Authority, responding to a request that the committee reconsider its decision to table and publish a report by the Office of the Chief Scientist
- 25 August 2022 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to Dylan Whitelaw, Office of Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Planning, and Minister to Homes, regarding witness attendance for a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing on 29 August 2022.

**4. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2022-2023 – initial hearings****4.1 Order for examination of portfolios**

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2022-2023 resolution each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 11.00 am, and from 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, then from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm, and from 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, with 15 minutes reserved for Government questions at the end of the morning and afternoon sessions, if required.

**4.2 Supplementary hearings**

The committee noted that, under the Budget Estimates resolution, supplementary hearings are scheduled for the week 24 October to 28 October 2022.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Jackson: That the committee defer its decision on whether to hold supplementary hearings for the portfolios of Planning, Homes, until after the return of answers to supplementary questions.

### 4.3 Public hearing: Planning, Homes

Departmental witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Planning, and Minister for Homes, was 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 Chair also reminded Mr Michael Cassel, Secretary, Department of Planning and Environment, that he did not need to be sworn, as he had been sworn at another Budget Estimates hearing for the same committee.

The following witnesses were sworn:

- Mr Marcus Ray, Group Deputy Secretary, Planning & Assessment, Department of Planning and Environment
- Mr Alexander Wendler, Chief Executive Officer, Landcom
- Mr Simon Newport, Acting Chief Executive, NSW Land and Housing Corporation
- Mr David Gainsford, Deputy Secretary, Development Assessment, Department of Planning and Environment
- Mr Brett Whitworth, Deputy Secretary, Planning Policy, Department of Planning and Environment
- Mr Leon Walker, Deputy Secretary, Property and Development, Department of Planning and Environment
- Mr Tim Raimond, Deputy Secretary, Strategic Land Use Planning, Department of Planning and Environment
- Mr Shaun Smith, Group Deputy Secretary, Corporate Services, Department of Planning and Environment
- Mr Clay Preshaw, Executive Director, Energy Resources and Industry Assessment, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
- Mr Stephen O'Donoghue, Director Resource Assessments, Department of Planning and Environment.

The Chair declared the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of Planning, Homes open for examination.

The Minister and departmental witnesses were examined by the committee.

The Minister withdrew at 12.45 pm.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 5.14 pm.

## 5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5.14 pm, *sine die*.

Stephen Fujiwara  
**Committee Clerk**



**Minutes no. 87**

Tuesday 4 October 2022

Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.15 am

**1. Members present**Ms Higginson, *Chair*

Mr Barrett

Ms Jackson (until 5.25 pm)

Mrs MacDonald (from 9.28 am)

Mr Mallard (from 1.30 pm)

Revd Nile (participating)

Ms Sharpe (via videoconference)

**2. Apologies**Mr Pearson, *Deputy Chair***3. Minutes**

Resolved, on the motion of Sharpe: That draft minutes no. 85 and 86 be confirmed.

**4. Correspondence**

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**5. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2022-2023 – supplementary hearings****5.1 Supplementary hearings**

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee hold no further hearings to consider matters relating to the portfolios of Environment and Heritage / Local Government / Planning, Homes.

**6. Inquiry into the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (Culture is Identity) Bill 2022**

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**7. Adjournment**

The committee adjourned at 5.43 pm, until Thursday 3 November 2022, 9.00 am, Room 1136 (report deliberative for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill inquiry).

Emily Treeby

**Committee Clerk****Draft minutes no. 90**

Thursday 8 December 2022

Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment

Webex, Parliament House, Sydney, at 2.00 pm

**1. Members present**Ms Higginson, *Chair*Mr Pearson, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Amato (participating for the purposes of the inquiry into Budget Estimates 2022-2023, then substituting for Mr Mallard for the duration of the inquiry into Hills Shire Council)

Mr Barrett

Ms Jackson

Mrs MacDonald

Ms Sharpe

**2. Apologies**

Mr Mallard (for the purposes of the inquiry into Budget Estimates 2022-2023)

**3. Previous minutes**

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That draft minutes nos. 82, 83, 84 and 89 be confirmed.

**4. Correspondence**

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

***Received:***

- 19 September 2022 – Letter from the Hon James Griffin MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage, to Budget Estimates secretariat returning post hearing responses for a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing held on 23 August 2022
- 19 September 2022 – Letter from the Hon James Griffin MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage, to Chair clarifying evidence given in a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing held on 23 August 2022
- 21 September 2022 – Letter from the Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Minister for Local Government, to Budget Estimates secretariat returning post hearing responses for a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing held on 25 August 2022
- 23 September 2022 – Letter from the Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Planning, and Minister for Homes, to Budget Estimates secretariat returning post hearing responses for a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing held on 29 August 2022
- 23 September 2022 – Correspondence from Mr Simon Newport, Acting Chief Executive, NSW Land and Housing Corporation, to Budget Estimates secretariat clarifying evidence given in a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing held on 29 August 2022.
- 2 December 2022 – Letter from Hon Penny Sharpe MLC, Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Hon Sue Higginson MLC and Hon Mark Pearson MLC, requesting a meeting of Portfolio Committee 7 – Planning and Environment to consider a proposed self-reference into allegations of impropriety against agents of the Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region
- 6 December 2022 – Email from the Office of the Government Whip advising that the Hon Lou Amato MLC will substitute for the Hon Shayne Mallard MLC for the duration of the inquiry into the Hills Shire Council, should it proceed.

***Sent:***

- 29 August 2022 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon James Griffin MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage, issuing uncorrected transcript, questions on notice, and supplementary questions for a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing held on 23 August 2022
- 31 August 2022 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Minister for Local Government, issuing uncorrected transcript, questions on notice, and supplementary questions for a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing held on 25 August 2022
- 2 September 2022 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Planning, and Minister for Homes, issuing uncorrected transcript, questions on notice, and supplementary questions for a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing held on 29 August 2022.

**5. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2022-2023 – initial hearings****5.1 Clarification of evidence**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Pearson: That the committee, as previously agreed via email, authorise the publication of the following items of correspondence, and the insertion of footnotes in the relevant Budget Estimates transcripts, noting receipt of correspondence clarifying the evidence given and providing a hyperlink to the published correspondence:

- correspondence from the Hon James Griffin MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage, received 19 September 2022, clarifying evidence given at the Budget Estimates Environment and Heritage hearing held on 23 August 2022

- correspondence from Mr Simon Newport, Acting Chief Executive, NSW Land and Housing Corporation, received 23 September 2022, clarifying evidence given at the Budget Estimates Planning, Homes hearing held on 29 August 2022.

### 5.2 Answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions

The committee noted the following answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions were published by the committee clerk under the authorisation of the resolution establishing the inquiry:

- answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from the Hon James Griffin MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage, received 19 September 2022
- answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from the Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Minister for Local Government, received 21 September 2022
- answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from the Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Planning, and Minister for Homes, received 23 September 2022.

### 5.3 Consideration of Chair's draft report

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That:

The draft report be the report of the committee and that the committee present the report to the House;

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;

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;

The committee secretariat correct any typographical, grammatical and formatting errors prior to tabling;

That the report be tabled on 16 December 2022.

## 6. Consideration of terms of reference

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## 7. Conduct of the inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of the Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region

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## 8. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 2.21 pm, *sine die*.

Allison Stowe / Peta Leemen  
Committee Clerk

