



BUDGET ESTIMATES 2023-2024

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Initial hearings

1. That, upon tabling, the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2023-2024 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 10 May 2023 adopting the 2023 sitting calendar,¹ the 2023-2024 initial budget estimates hearings be scheduled as follows:

Day One: Tuesday 24 October 2023

- PC 3 Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney
PC 4 Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport

Day Two: Wednesday 25 October 2023

- PC 1 Premier
PC 4 Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales

Day Three: Thursday 26 October 2023

- PC 2 Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast
PC 1 Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, the Central Coast, Medical Research

Day Four: Tuesday 31 October 2023

- PC 1 Treasurer
PC 8 Customer Service and Digital Government, Emergency Services, Youth Justice

Day Five: Wednesday 1 November 2023

- PC 2 Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast
PC 6 Regional Transport and Roads
PC 3 Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

Day Six: Thursday 2 November 2023

- PC 7 Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage
PC 1 Finance, Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, Natural Resources

¹ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 10 May 2023, pp 64-65.

Day Seven:	Friday 3 November 2023
PC 7	Planning and Public Spaces
PC 5	Women, Seniors, Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
Day Eight:	Tuesday 7 November 2023
PC 1	The Legislature
PC 6	Transport
PC 5	Police and Counter Terrorism, the Hunter
Day Nine:	Wednesday 8 November 2023
PC 1	Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety
PC 8	Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Industry and Trade, Innovation, Science and Technology, Building, Corrections
Day Ten:	Thursday 9 November 2023
PC 6	Special Minister of State, Roads, Arts, Music and the Night-time Economy, Jobs and Tourism
PC 5	Families and Communities, Disability Inclusion
Day Eleven:	Friday 10 November 2023
PC 5	Attorney-General
PC 8	Local Government

3. That the remainder of the Budget Estimates 2023-2024 hearings be held during the first half of 2024, as determined by further resolution of the House.
4. That for the purposes of the 2023-2024 initial budget estimates hearings:
 - (a) each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.15 am to 10.45 am, 11.15 am to 12.45 pm, 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm and 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm, and, if required, by Government members only from 10.45 am to 11.00 am, 12.45 pm to 1.00 pm, and 5.15 pm to 5.30 pm
 - (b) the portfolio of The Legislature be examined by Opposition, Crossbench and Government members from 2.00 pm until 5.30 pm.
5. That for the purposes of the 2023-2024 initial 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 the receipt of the hearing transcript
 - (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 report by 28 June 2024.²

Supplementary hearing

1. That, further to the resolution of the House of 12 September 2023 referring Budget Estimates 2023- 2024 to the Portfolio Committees for inquiry and report, as amended 11 October 2023, and the resolution of the House of 10 May 2023 adopting the 2023 sitting calendar, Portfolio Committee No. 4 - Regional NSW hold a supplementary hearing in 2023 to examine the portfolios of Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales.
2. That for the purposes of the 2023-2024 supplementary budget estimates hearing:
 - (a) each portfolio be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.15 am to 10.45 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 10.45 am, 12.45 pm and 5.15 pm, if required
 - (b) the committee must hear evidence in public
 - (c) the committee may ask for explanations from the minister, parliamentary secretaries or officers of departments, statutory bodies or corporations, relating to the items of proposed expenditure
 - (d) the minister be invited to appear for the morning session only unless requested by the committee to appear also for the afternoon session
 - (e) witnesses, including the minister, may not make an opening statement before a committee commences questions
 - (f) members may lodge supplementary questions with the committee clerk by 5.00 pm within two business days following the receipt of the hearing transcript
 - (g) 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.³

² *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 12 September 2023, pp 446-450; amended, *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 11 October 2023, p 558.

³ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 22 November 2023, pp 692-693.

Additional hearings

1. That, further to the resolution of the House of 12 September 2023 referring Budget Estimates 2023-2024 to the Portfolio Committees for inquiry and report, as amended 11 October 2023, and the resolution of the House of 21 November 2023 adopting the 2024 sitting calendar,⁴ the 2023-2024 additional budget estimates hearings be scheduled as follows:

Day One: Tuesday 20 February 2024

PC 3 Education and Early Learning, Western Sydney
PC 4 Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport

Day Two: Wednesday 21 February 2024

PC 1 Premier
PC 4 Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales

Day Three: Thursday 22 February 2024

PC 2 Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast
PC 1 Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, the Central Coast, Medical Research

Day Four: Friday 23 February 2024

PC 6 Transport
PC 5 Police and Counter Terrorism, the Hunter

Day Five: Tuesday 27 February 2024

PC 7 Planning and Public Spaces
PC 5 Women, Seniors, Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Day Six: Wednesday 28 February 2024

PC 2 Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast
PC 8 Customer Service and Digital Government, Emergency Services, Youth Justice

Day Seven: Thursday 29 February 2024

PC 1 Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety
PC 6 Regional Transport and Roads

Day Eight: Friday 1 March 2024

PC 1 Treasurer
PC 8 Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Industry and Trade, Innovation, Science and Technology, Building, Corrections

Day Nine: Monday 4 March 2024

PC 5 Families and Communities, Disability Inclusion
PC 1 The Legislature

Day Ten: Tuesday 5 March 2024

PC 6 Special Minister of State, Roads, Arts, Music and the Night-time Economy, Jobs and Tourism
PC 3 Skills, TAFE, Tertiary Education

⁴ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 21 November 2023, pp 666-667.

Day Eleven: Wednesday 6 March 2024

PC 5 Attorney-General
PC 8 Local Government

Day Twelve: Thursday 7 March 2024

PC 7 Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage
PC 1 Finance, Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, Natural Resources

2. That for the purposes of the 2023-2024 additional budget estimates hearings:
 - (a) each portfolio, except The Legislature, be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.15 am to 10.45 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 10.45 am, 12.45 pm and 5.15 pm, if required
 - (b) the portfolio of The Legislature be examined by Opposition, Crossbench and Government members from 9.15 am to 11.00 am, and from 11.15 am to 1.00 pm.
3. That for the purposes of the 2023-2024 additional 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 the receipt of the hearing transcript
 - (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.⁵

⁵ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 30 November 2023, pp 787-788.