

Division 3: Premier and Cabinet — Service 4, Aboriginal Affairs, \$20 877 000 —

Ms M.M. Quirk, Chair.

Dr A.D. Buti, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

Ms E. Roper, Director General.

Ms F. Hunt, Deputy Director General, Aboriginal Engagement and Community Policy.

Ms T. Nynette, Acting Director, Aboriginal Engagement.

Ms S. Meaghan, Acting Special Adviser, Native Title, Aboriginal Engagement.

Ms E. Fells, Acting Executive Director, State Services.

Mr A. Brender-A-Brandis, Chief Financial Officer.

Ms L. Chighine, Senior Policy Adviser.

[Witnesses introduced.]

The CHAIR: The estimates committees will be reported by Hansard. The daily proof *Hansard* will be available online as soon as possible within two business days. I will allow as many questions as possible. Questions and answers should be short and to the point. Consideration is restricted to items for which a vote of money is proposed in the consolidated account. Questions must relate to a page number, item or amount related to the current division, and members should preface their questions with these details. Some divisions are the responsibility of more than one minister. Ministers shall only be examined in relation to their portfolio responsibilities.

A minister may agree to provide supplementary information to the committee. I will ask the minister to clearly indicate what information they agree to provide and will then allocate a reference number. Supplementary information should be provided to the principal clerk by close of business Friday, 3 June 2022. If a minister suggests that a matter be put on notice, members should use the online questions on notice system.

I give the call to the member for North West Central.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Thank you, chair. I refer to page 68 and service 4, “Government Policy Management—Aboriginal Affairs”.

The CHAIR: So, that is the fourth dot point, member?

Mr V.A. CATANIA: It is the fourth dot point, yes.

Can the minister explain the reduction in cost of service from the budget to the actual figure? The 2021–22 budget figure is \$36.405 million and the 2021–22 estimated actual is \$22.583 million.

Dr A.D. BUTI: The decrease of \$13.8 million is mainly due to a reduction in expenditure carryover for various Aboriginal engagement projects including native title projects, the south west native title settlement, the Yamatji Nation Indigenous land use agreement implementation cost, the south west native title settlement implementation cost, the Aboriginal cultural centre planning project, and the Tjiwarl native title compensation claim and delays in the ongoing negotiations. They are the main matters.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: New question.

The CHAIR: Yes, you are the only one putting your hand up.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: I refer to page 69 and explanation of significant movements. Paragraph 1 states —

The decrease in Total Cost of Service from the 2021–22 Budget to the 2022–23 Budget ... mainly relates to the cessation of funding with respect to short-term and discrete Aboriginal Engagement projects and grants.

The CHAIR: It is at the top of the page, minister.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Can the minister perhaps provide information on what these projects are in relation to and a list of the projects and the grants?

Dr A.D. BUTI: I think, member, the projects that I went through in my previous answer are basically the projects.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Are you able to provide the grants to those projects?

Dr A.D. BUTI: The amounts?

Mr V.A. CATANIA: The amounts of the grants, yes.

Dr A.D. BUTI: The amounts, yes. Basically, it is \$13.8 million in total. The native title projects are \$2.4 million. The south west native title settlement is \$1.6 million. The Yamatji Nation ILUA implementation cost is \$0.8 million.

The south west native title settlement implementation costs are \$0.8 million. The Aboriginal cultural sector planning project is \$3.6 million. The Tjiwarl native title compensation claim is \$1 million. The royalties for regions carryover to 2022–23, which I mentioned previously, is \$1.6 million and there are Closing the Gap initiatives of \$1.3 million.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Thank you, minister. I refer to page —

The CHAIR: Is this is a different one on a different matter, member?

Mr V.A. CATANIA: This is a different question for which I am going to a different book. I refer to page 168 of budget paper No 3 and the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021.

Dr A.D. BUTI: Okay, that is probably best left to the next section, if you do not mind, when we will have the Department of Planning, Land and Heritage.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Got you—okay.

Ms L. METTAM: I refer to page 68 under the service “Government Policy Management—Aboriginal Affairs”. Can the minister explain why there has been such a reduction in the cost of service from the budget to the actual figure?

Dr A.D. BUTI: That is the same question.

Ms L. METTAM: Is it the same?

Dr A.D. BUTI: Yes.

Ms L. METTAM: Sorry.

Dr A.D. BUTI: I am more than happy for members to come to an end with their questions. They do not have to pad it out.

The CHAIR: We might move on to the next one.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Yes, that is where the questions are at.

The appropriation was recommended.