

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARING**

State Solicitor's Office

Hon Nick Goiran MLC asked:

1) I refer to page 447, Budget No. 2, Volume 2, and I ask:

- (a) How much of the Total Appropriations was allocated towards the total cost of the SSO's involvement in the recent Supreme Court dispute between the President of the Legislative Council of Western Australia and the Corruption and Crime Commission Dispute;

Answer: The SSO was not a party to this matter.

- (b) How involved was the SSO in formulating the unlawful procedure, being the subject of the Dispute, that was used to determine which documents were privileged; and

Answer: The SSO's involvement is considered subject to legal professional privilege.

- (c) Will the SSO table the advice it provided to the Government regarding the determination of a procedure for identifying which documents are privileged?

Answer: No, the advice is considered subject to legal professional privilege.

2) I refer to page 447, Budget No. 2, Volume 2 – Note 6 on page 448, and I ask: What are the 'other hospital expansion projects'?

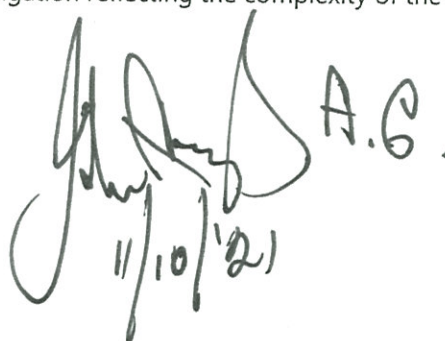
Answer: The Office also provides legal support in respect to the Peel Health Campus Project and its current contractual arrangements as part of the 2021 State Election commitment. Furthermore, the Office continues to provide legal support for the possible expansion of the Midland Health Campus Site.

3) I refer to page 447, Budget No. 2, Volume 2 – 'Total Appropriations', and I ask: How much of the 2019-20 Actual Budget and the 2020-2021 Estimated Actual Budget was allocated towards the Government obtaining legal advice regarding the re-appointment of Mr John McKecknie as the Commissioner of the CCC?

Answer: The SSO did not provide legal advice regarding the re-appointment of Mr John McKecknie as the Commissioner of the CCC.

4) I refer to page 449, Budget No. 2, Volume 2 – the total cost of legal services to the Government, and I ask: Why is the 2021-22 Budget Estimate significantly higher than the 2020-21 Estimated Actual and forward estimates?

Answer: The 2021-22 Budget Target is higher than the 2020-21 Budget primarily due to an increase in employee costs associated with both the Mineralogy Pty Ltd litigation reflecting the complexity of the case, and civil litigation – Institutional Abuse claims.


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5) I refer to page 454, Budget No. 2, Volume 2 – the 'State Solicitor Fees', and I ask: Why are the 2021-22 Budget Estimate and forward estimates amounts significantly higher than the 2020-21 Estimated Actual?

Answer: The 2020-21 Estimated Actual reflects a reduction in the anticipated non-core work performed by the SSO that is recoverable from other State Government departments and authorities, which was offset by an increase in the core work of the SSO as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2021-22 Budget Estimate reflects the ideal distribution of recoverable legal services and non-recoverable legal services within the existing resourcing structure of the Office.

Minister's initials



11/10/21