



REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL
OPERATIONS

IN RELATION TO

The Estimates of Expenditure 1997/98

Presented by the Hon Mark Nevill (Chairman)

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

The Standing Committee was established on December 21 1989 with the following terms of reference:

1. There is hereby appointed a Standing Committee to be known as the *Estimates and Financial Operations Committee*.
2. The committee consists of 5 members.
3. The functions of the Committee are to consider and report on:
 - (a) the estimates of expenditure laid before the Council each year; and
 - (b) any matter relating to the financial administration of the State.
4. The Committee shall report on the estimates referred under clause 3 by or within one sitting day of the day on which the second reading of the *Appropriation (Consolidated Fund) Bill* is moved.
5. For the purposes of clause 3(a), the House may appoint not more than 6 members at any stage of its examination.
6. A reference in clause 3 to "estimates of expenditure" includes continuing appropriations, however expressed, that do not require annual appropriations.
7. The Committee may initiate investigations under clause 3(b) without prejudice to the right of the Council to refer any such matter.

Members of the Committee:

Hon Mark Nevill (Chairman)
Hon Murray Criddle
Hon Muriel Patterson
Hon Simon O'Brien
Hon Bob Thomas

Staff of the Committee:

Mr Peter Williams (Advisory/Research Officer)
Ms Kelly Campbell (Committee Clerk)

Previous Reports of the Committee:

See Appendix VI

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CHAIRMAN'S PREFACE

I am pleased with the conduct and results of the Estimates hearings this year. The hearings were well attended and all members contributed. The hearings were completed in three days because of the need to swear in new members of the Legislative Council following the State election. Fifteen departments were examined. Some requests to examine departments were not accommodated, however members can request the committee to invite other departments to our normal meetings to pursue issues of interest.

The committee welcomed the Hon Murray Criddle who replaced the Hon George Cash who resigned when elected President. The committee also welcomed the Hon Simon O'Brien who replaced the Hon Alan Carstairs. I wish to thank the committee staff Mr Peter Williams and Ms Kelly Campbell for their efforts over this busy period and also to thank the Auditor General for his help. Mr Alan Pereira from the Office of the Auditor was of great assistance to the committee and the staff. The committee is interested in any comments from members as to how the process can improve.

HON Mark Nevill (MLC)
CHAIRMAN

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1. OVERVIEW

This is the Eighth Report by the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations concerned with the consideration of the estimates of expenditure laid before the Legislative Council.

These hearings provide all members of the Legislative Council with the opportunity to question a range of agencies invited to attend Committee hearings for the purpose of examining the estimates of expenditure for 1997/ 1998.

The Committee in continuing the practice followed in previous years:

- (i) decided to focus on particular agencies during the estimates hearings;

[The agencies selected are listed in Appendix I and the timetable of agencies examined is contained in Appendix II.]

- (ii) adopted a Procedure Policy for the conduct of hearings, a copy of which is contained in Appendix III; and

- (iii) provided a series of Generic Questions circulated to all agencies being examined at the hearings, a copy of which is listed in Appendix IV.

[Agency answers to the Generic Questions are contained in the Hansard Record of the Committee estimates hearings.]

The Committee, in the preparation for the estimates hearings, sought the advice of Treasury and the Office of the Auditor General and appreciates the assistance provided by both agencies in the estimates process.

The Committee, in particular, appreciates the support of the Office of the Auditor General in providing a member of his office for the conduct of the hearings.

2. PROCEDURE

The Committee, following the procedure of previous years, resolved to focus its energies on examining particular agencies during the estimates hearings. It again sought the advice of members of the Legislative Council in selecting the list of agencies that were to be questioned during the Committee hearings.

The rationale for a specific set of agencies lies in the concentration of Committee resources and a concerted examination by members of the Legislative Council of agencies that they seek to investigate.

To facilitate the conduct of the estimates hearings, the Committee produced a Procedure Policy for participants.

The 1997/1998 Procedure Policy provides a framework for the conduct of the hearings.

The following precedents were used by the Committee as a guide in the formulation of its policy:

- Information to agencies and ministers of general areas of committee enquiry
- Circulation of Committee Generic Questions to agencies under examination
- Precedence to Committee questions and lines of enquiry
- Limiting opening statements by agency representatives
- Procedure for taking Questions on Notice and Supplementary Information
- Types of questions permitted to be asked.

The Committee also formulated additional questions to be asked of agencies either during the hearings or as Questions on Notice. A list of these questions is contained in Appendix V.

The Committee appreciates the support of the Office of the Auditor General in supplying briefing papers to assist in the development of these questions.

To assist the members of the Legislative Council and expedite the consideration of the estimates process, the Committee resolved to produce the transcript of proceedings, as a separate document from the Questions on Notice and the Supplementary Information to be supplied by agencies.

3. SPECIFIC AGENCIES

Over the course of the three day program, the Committee met with 15 government bodies.

This section provides:

- (i) a survey of selected issues and topics raised during the three day program; and
- (ii) a point form summary of subjects addressed during agency questioning.

For further information on agency responses to individual subjects reference should be made to the Hansard Record of Estimates Committee hearings from 28 May 1997 to 30 May 1997.

3.1 HOMESWEST (State Housing Commission)

3.1.1 Outline of Selected Issues and Topics

Information Technology

Homeswest assured the Committee that it had thoroughly scrutinised the Year 2000 computer issue and anticipated that it would have computer software amended by June 1998.

In providing proper accountability of outsourcing of IT needs, Homeswest is engaged in a process called BIPAC. It is currently at the stage of due diligence, where a contractor has been selected.

In regard to Internet access for staff, Homeswest has only one Internet station, which has been restricted due to issues of cost.

The agency referred to recent reviews that it has taken through IBM in regard to the continuing need to upgrade IT equipment and software. It now operates a user friendly system, which will be regularly monitored.

Accountability of Assets

Homeswest reported that in its accountability of public property it had "a system of internal control which is second to none". Regular audits of their "strong room" against the nominal index and titles divisions are undertaken and the agency is currently participating with the Government Property Office with an audit of all of their property.

Homeswest acknowledged that the issue of accommodation in the Joondalup area is a difficult one, due to long waiting lists and "little stock and no land". It will use some of its acquisition money to buy land, encourage those with specifically requested accommodation to consider other locations and has been asked by the Minister to remove applications from 1989 to 1992 off the waiting list.

With assets such as motor vehicles, it has privatised its arrangements through a leasing system, which enables up to date information of the numbers and condition of the car fleet.

The agency has also adopted bar coding and electronic scanning of its smaller assets, which are regularly audited.

Accountability of Private Sector Involvement

Homeswest is committed to the government policy of tendering out through the Department of Contract and Management Services (CAMS) and provides that the majority of its contracts go out to public tender. To ensure that the contracted service is provided it uses a post - occupancy evaluation system and annual customer service surveys, to obtain feedback from tenants.

Accountability of Continued Outsourcing

Homeswest contracted out their Internal Audit system in the last financial year and maintains that the public tender system with the due diligence process ensured that the tenderer with the best quality was selected. To assess the tenderer an efficiency audit was conducted, rather than a “tick and flick” type audit.

Rural Waiting Lists and Housing Stocks

Homeswest is addressing waiting lists in rural areas by seeking to assist people within 18 months of an application. It admits that this is a guideline which it does not meet in all circumstances.

The problem of surplus stocks in country towns is being addressed through the involvement of the local authorities. It is accepts that the upgrading of certain rural properties needs to be pursued.

3.1.2 Summary of Subjects

Matters discussed were as follows -

- Information technology
- Estate improvement program
- Karawara redevelopment
- Joondalup zone of the Mirrabooka region
- Public relations
- Public tender system
- Land development process
- Asset controls
- Wheelchair access to Homeswest units
- Coolbellup development
- Keystart mortgage foreclosures
- Country area wait lists

3.2 FISHERIES (Div 32)

3.2.1 Outline of Selected Issues and Topics

Information Technology (IT)

Fisheries is now assessing the Year 2000 issue and stated that the results of that analysis will be available later in 1997.

Ongoing outsourcing of IT needs are being carried out in accordance with guidelines developed in consultation with CAMS.

Access to Internet facilities is limited and covered by existing policy within the agency. Policies require a demonstrated need for access and are signed off by divisional managers who are responsible for IT management.

An IT Strategic Plan has been developed to look at ongoing requirements for the agency. It is currently being implemented within Fisheries.

Fisheries maintains that it places "a high value on training people" in IT.

Accrual Accounting System

A first draft has been completed on an accrual accounting system. The agency plans to complete a complete stock take of all assets as a basis for verifying a comprehensive financial statement before the end of the financial year.

3.2.2 Summary of Subjects

Matters discussed were as follows -

- Addressing the Year 2000 issue
- Outsourcing of IT needs
- Controls over staff access to Internet
- Replacement and upgrade of technology to address technological change
- IT Training for Staff
- Pilchard fish stocks in Bremer Bay
- Impact of proposed management plan for 1999 on Esperance fishing stock
- Expenditure and staffing levels relating to public relations
- Advertising
- Development of aquaculture industry
- Supply of marron
- Marine conservation and protection of threatened or endangered species
- Prohibition of finning of sharks
- Identification of significant threats to important fish habitat areas
- Use of no-take areas to ensure maintenance of marine species
- Workplace agreements
- Excessive powers versus self-regulation in fishing and processing industries

- Full accrual and fixed assets accounting system
- Controls over recording and accounting for public property
- Impact of aquaculture industry on ocean supplies
- Use of trust funds to buy-out or compensate licensed fishermen
- Presentation of accounts in Program Statements
- Fall in demand for Western Rock Lobster and targeting of the live market
- Exporting of whole fish and re-importing as processed fish
- Decline in value of state fisheries production

3.3 AGRICULTURE (Div 29)

3.3.1 Outline of Selected Issues and Topics

Information Technology (IT)

Agriculture has established a formal working group to look at the Year 2000 issue and states that it is going through all systems and believes that it is in a good position. It also reported that it has not found anything that causes concern for the agency.

Agriculture also indicated that it has been involved with IT issues for a substantial time and is in the process of upgrading archaic systems. They have an ongoing recurrent maintenance program that the agency will look at in the future. Recent significant IT resources include a new financial management information system.

Asset Control

The agency is in the process of implementing a new asset management system. This will involve a complete stock take of all capital assets in the state.

Intellectual Property Rights

Agriculture has been involved in the protection of plant genetic material for about nine years. It routinely seeks plant breeders' rights for new material and for material which has international usefulness or commercial prospects, it takes out appropriate patents.

When it gives material to any other organisation for testing or evaluation, it formally enters an agreement for testing, recognising its rights.

Food Safety

The agency reports that as part of the SQF2000 program, it is undertaking projects with a number of industries. This involves a quality assurance approach to ensure that all techniques used are compatible with the production of a safe, clean, green product.

Agriculture has also been involved in a complete review by the Australian and New Zealand Food Safety Council of all issues of food safety, as a result of events in the meat industry. It also noted the quality assurance programs associated with meat processing groups in Western Australia.

3.3.2 Summary of Subjects

Matters discussed were as follows -

- Workplace agreements
- Industry resource protection/border controls
- Information technology
- Asset control

- Patents of genetically engineered plants and animal species
- Annual budget: remuneration and appointment of agricultural boards, councils, committees etc
- Accountability of partnership groups
- Quality assurance programs in milk processing
- Lupin-based fishmeal
- Prevention of fire blight spread
- Legislative power to strengthen quarantine surveillance and detection
- Beef in Schools Program
- Research of organic food production
- Salinity action plan
- Calicivirus
- Growth areas in services and contracts
- Direct and indirect costs of new accounting system
- Stable fly eradication program
- Reduction achievement through retained revenue
- Revenue and expenditure invoices and debtor-creditor accounts
- Cash advances due from public officers employed in the Minister's office
- Outstanding departmental debtors
- Monthly statements to departmental clients
- Internal audit procedures
- Gascoyne/Murchison Rangeland Strategy
- Status of Footrot Program
- Reduction in National Landcare Program/launch of state salinity plan
- Rural Adjustment and Finance Corporation
- Industry resource protection/annual rye grass toxicity
- Outstanding debts/write-offs
- Public relations
- Staffing levels of the Minister's office

3.4 POLICE (Div 77)

3.4.1 Outline of Selected Issues and Topics

New Police Training Academy

Police have sought to collocate to its own purpose built academy with a tertiary institution. Edith Cowan University has expressed an early interest.

A full brief has been developed, with input by the architectural firm of Peter Hunt and Associates. The agency believes that the Maylands location is inappropriate due to heritage restrictions on that site. Government approval is still to be finalised in regard to this issue.

Vehicle Immobiliser Subsidy Program

Police stated that it is the host agency for the car immobiliser program. It receives monthly accounts from the Insurance Council of Australia and has an accountability process in place for program and vehicle qualification checks. Payments are then made under this system.

Firearm Buyback Scheme

Police receives a financial allocation from the Commonwealth government to administer the scheme. The firearms are handed in at the local police facility and then transported to the Maylands ballistic section, which verifies the firearm and provides information for requisite payment to be made.

3.4.2 Summary of Subjects

Matters discussed were as follows -

- Sponsorship and maintenance costs of police helicopter
- Level of crime in the Willagee area
- Location of new police training academy
- Management of the Vehicle Immobiliser Subsidy Program
- Management of the Firearm Buyback Scheme
- Delay in proclaiming the *Telecommunications (Interceptions) Western Australia Act 1996*
- Prevention of domestic violence - resourcing the new restraining order legislation
- Use of Multinova cameras at the 100 most dangerous crash sites
- Local authorities experimenting with 40 kmph zones
- Use of road traffic infringement revenues
- Operational Drug Squad and Metropolitan Liquor Squad
- Permanent police presence in Balgo area south of Halls Creek
- Resourcing Police and Citizens Youth Clubs
- Local Government security patrols
- Regionalisation of the Police Service
- Response times
- Responsibilities of pedestrians, motorcyclists and cyclists on the roads

- Accidents resulting from stolen vehicles
- Braking capacity of vehicles
- Upgrade of communications
- Clarkson and Bunbury police stations
- Transfer of specially trained officers
- Accidents resulting from drugs
- Publication of effects of prescription drugs
- Murdoch police station
- Relationship between Police Service and Labour Relations Building and Construction Taskforce
- Offences against the person and causal factors (research)
- Road toll for cyclists
- Operations relating to current anti-third wave industrial relations campaign
- Increase in speed limits and impact on fatalities
- Public safety on public transport
- Clearance rate for damage caused by graffiti
- Resourcing of the Security and Related Activities (Control) Act
- Payments to Forensic Behavioural Investigative Services International Pty Ltd

3.5 CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT (CALM) (Div 42)

3.5.1 Outline of Selected Issues and Topics

CALM "Debt Free by 2003"

CALM reported that the government had decided to assist in the implementation of the salinity strategy and make the debt repayment schedule flexible, so that CALM can increase its commitment to salinity tree planting to \$18 million by 2001. The rate of debt will depend on CALM's ability to generate revenue and on some of its asset realisation proposals, but it will not be aiming to eliminate debt by 2003. It anticipates that the debt will be down to \$30 million by 2003 to 2005 and eliminated by 2010 to 2015.

Control of Feral Cats

CALM reported progress in the control of major causes in the decline of native animals in Western Australia. Progress has been made to identify and confirm the existence of a bait window. The agency has developed and is in the process of patenting a unique cat bait. In cooperation with the research centre for vermin and animal control in Melbourne, CALM has tested and is using a specific poison to kill cats.

Farm purchases for Globulus plantations

CALM acts as agents for Japanese and Korean companies, and a proportion of land is dedicated to a blue gum planting program in the Albany, Collie and Bunbury regions. The agency reported that a proportion of the cost of that program is met by purchasing farm properties. As an agent CALM receives nominations for the properties the companies are interested in buying and the agency facilitates the sale and "plant up" of the properties.

Wildlife licences for Avian Fauna

CALM issued licences to six aviculturalists to determine whether the Naretha Blue Bonnet could be bred in captivity. Part of the arrangement was that the aviculturalists paid the costs, CALM received half of the progeny and retained all the birds that were captured. CALM received about \$30 000 from the project and now proposes to replicate the program with a range of other species, including the ground parrot.

3.5.2 Summary of Subjects

Matters discussed were as follows -

- Current CALM debt level/debt repayment
- Native animals for nature based tourist attraction
- Feral cats
- Sale of assets in Blackwood Valley
- Purchase of farms for globulous plantations

- Gngangara pine plantation and park
- Salinity control/salinity action plan
- Funding of Observatory
- Giblett block interim listing
- RFA process
- Gngangara water mound
- Representative ecosystems
- Contractual agreements to supply woodchips
- Creation of, and area covered by, new national parks and nature reserves
- Beedelup National Park
- Budget for purchase of land for conservation purchases
- Coordination of firefighters and CALM officers during bushfires
- Use of entry fees collected from visitors to national parks
- Prescribed burning in the Fitzgerald National Park area
- National park in the Wellington Dam area
- Karijini National Park
- Underwood Block at Jurien
- Dieback risk areas
- Large scale photography and ground surveys
- Lease agreement for the Yanchep Inn
- Tree planting on agricultural land
- Motor vehicle fleet
- Journalists employed by CALM
- National trust covenants to preserve natural heritage
- Bio-diversity in marine parks
- Trawling in Shark Bay marine parks
- Creery Wetlands
- Yalgorup National Park
- Lake Clifton thrombolites
- Programs run on basis of Commonwealth recoups
- Protection of hairy-nosed wombat habitat
- Salaries determination
- Neerabup National Park
- Forward estimates for annual adjustment of community grant
- Remuneration for CALM volunteers
- Litigation expenditure
- Return from leaseholders for nature-based tourist program
- Retained revenue
- Sale of car fleet
- Native title claims
- Pricing of Australian woodchips
- Logging rate
- Pemberton Mill
- Pulp mills
- Wildlife licences for avian fauna
- Bat viruses
- Dam site sold to Water and Rivers Commission
- Research funding allocation
- Income from commercial exploitation of conocurvone

- Aboriginal employment rate in CALM
- Employment rate caused by WA wood and wood product industry

3.6 EDUCATION (Div 25)

3.6.1 Outline of Selected Issues and Topics

Audit Qualifications for Employee Entitlements and Non-Current Assets

Education reports that appropriate valuation methods and procedures have been discussed and agreed to by the Auditor General, the Valuer General's office and the Department of Contract and Management Services, in regard to the method of valuation of buildings.

The agency states that due to its size and complexity, it was unable to disclose its long service liability on a discounted value basis as required by accounting standard AAS30. The agency has acted to engage an actuary to assist in the calculation of its long service leave liability for the 1996-97 financial statements and is also introducing a new human resource system called P2000.

Accommodation of Schools in Leased Premises

Education has established a "schools in shops and schools in houses" program. It reports that the program has received strong parent and student support and provides flexible accommodation solutions. The agency is looking at further leasing arrangements to ensure that neighbourhood schools are developed earlier, so as to promote "school spirit, culture and ethos" and provide earlier community participation.

Internet Access

The agency reported that a national directive provides a catalogue of the appropriate Internet Services for schools. It is continuing to act on this matter, believing that school guidelines and teacher supervision also provide additional security.

It was also stated that the curriculum contains a three year Internet project, which will allow schools to either purchase or lease a new computer, purchase a modem and pay for a connection, plus some Internet time, to a local Internet Service Provider. Schools have been made aware of the cost of Internet time and know how to manage it to ensure that their school budgets are not adversely affected by Internet Costs.

Resource Allocation to Drug Education programs

Education reported that national and international research indicates the degree of drug usage by young people. The agency uses the Western Australia Child Health Institute Child Health Surveys as the critical source, and works very closely with it, to guide research for Drug Education programs.

3.6.2 Summary of Subjects

Matters discussed were as follows:

- Increase in Education Budget
- Literacy net project

- School grants
- Education of students with intellectual disabilities
- School watch and security
- Local Area Education Framework
- Students at educational risk
- Contracting out of four services
- Capital works projects in City of Wanneroo
- Student numbers at Ocean Reef and Clarkson High Schools
- Qualified audit report - employee entitlements and non-current assets
- Self insurance policy
- Reinforcement of management structure in schools
- Professional development for School Administrators and Registrars
- Rural Integration Program
- Review of school psychology services
- Contracting out of pilot programs for child care centres
- Cost differences between adult and child toilets
- Musical instrument maintenance trust
- Local area education framework - economic impact
- Amalgamation of Albany High Schools
- Albany Secondary Education review Committee
- Language Other Than English Program
- Workplace Agreements/ Salary Packaging
- Fringe Benefits Tax
- Schools accommodated in leased buildings
- Warnbro High School Capital Works
- Internet access & usage
- Mount Barker Primary School
- Interim sponsorship & promotion policy
- Aboriginal literacy program
- Relationship between Aboriginal health & education
- Remote teaching service package
- School of the air program - remote/distance education services
- Drug education programs
- Agricultural education

3.7 JUSTICE (Div 55)

3.7.1 Outline of Selected Issues and Topics

Certificate of General Education

Justice advised that no arrangements had been made regarding the withdrawal of funding for the Certificate of General Education provided to prisoners and funded by the Department of Training through the TAFE network. The agency and the Department of Training are intending to continue the services and no decision has been made on funding.

Supervision of Juvenile Offenders in Northern Western Australia

Justice reported that as a result of the amalgamation of the management structure of the adult corrections and juvenile community based services, the agency looks to efficiencies to strengthen the Kununurra office with an office manager and upgraded staff.

It was also noted that the standards of supervision contracts of juvenile offenders will be similar to adult offenders. Agreements with aboriginal communities will ensure that no person enters a community without the agreement of the aboriginal council and that a suitable person will be assigned to provide day to day supervision, with appropriate backup visits.

Remand Prisoners

Justice is currently looking at why there has been an expansion in the number of remand prisoners. It has raised the question with the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate because it believes that some people are being inappropriately remanded. It intends to give feedback information to the magistracy, so that they can look at it within their own arrangements and ensure that an appropriate practice is being followed. It is also looking at the matter of greater assistance to people to obtain bail.

3.7.2 Summary of Subjects

Matters discussed were as follows -

- Allocation for Criminal Injuries Compensation
- Certificate of General Education for prisoners
- Additional prisoner accommodation
- Site of new prison
- Sale of information held by the Registrar General's Office
- Funding of the Legal Aid Commission
- Dietrich payments
- Contracting of provision of addiction behaviour training
- Supervision of juvenile offenders
- Increasing demand on guardianship and administration services
- Pardelup Prison Farm
- Bail and remand

3.8 PRODUCTIVITY AND LABOUR RELATIONS (Div 47)

3.8.1 Outline of Selected Issues and Topics

Role of the Workplace Liaison Officers (WLO)

The agency stated that the role of the Workplace Liaison Officer was to promote choice to employers and provide information about agreements and their rights and obligations. If a WLO is in a workplace and observes that an employer may not be complying with his or her obligations, the WLO will draw that to the employers' attention, but their role is not to prosecute. The WLO is not obligated to take their observations back to an investigative section of the agency.

Promotion of *Labour Relations Legislation Amendment Act 1997*

The agency believes that the amount of money to be expended on the promotion of the legislation will be in the nature of \$200 000 to \$300 000.

3.8.2 Summary of Subjects

Matters discussed were as follows -

- Funding of investigation of complaints of legislation breaches
- Prosecution of breaches of legislation
- Relationship with Building and Construction Industry Task Force
- Resourcing of Occupational Health and Safety
- New industrial legislation and implementation of Fielding Report
- Waiting time for investigation of complaints
- Role of Industrial inspectors
- Wageline telephone system
- Criminal Code prosecutions
- Targeting of industries
- Workplace Liaison Officer
- Promotion of *Labour Relations Legislation Amendment Act 1997*
- Training of Industrial Inspectors
- Drafting of regulations

3.9 TOURISM (Div 36)

3.9.1 Outline of Selected Issues and Topics

Incentive payments to Tourist Operators

Tourism is not aware of incentive payments to tourist operators to undertake visits to certain businesses, as they are probably an informal arrangement between operator and business site. It was acknowledged that this practice may not promote the tourist image of Western Australia.

Backpackers

While the agency does not market specifically to the backpackers, it recognises that they come into the high yield category of the tourist market, by reason of their length of stay. They are targeted as a part of the overall strategy of the agency marketing plan, with a particular emphasis on Japan.

Development of Professionalism and Quality Assurance

Tourism has entered into an arrangement with the Tourism Council of Australia (TCA) (WA Division) in supporting its attempts to become the peak industry body as the provider of tourism in Western Australia. The arrangement between the agency and TCA involves quality assurance for providers of tourism services. Providers will be accredited through programs being put in place. It is based on industry self-regulation through the Council as an association representing all industry and will link in with national quality assurance standards.

3.9.2 Summary of Subjects

Matters discussed were as follows -

- Infrastructure upgrades to Rottnest Island
- Calculation of economic benefits
- Tourist bus operators
- Backpacker market
- Elle Racing Syndicate
- Elle advertising campaign
- Whitbread Yacht Race
- Nature based tourism strategy
- Development of professionalism and quality assurance in the tourism industry
- Private sponsorship of Rally Australia
- World Mining and Energy Games
- Star rating system
- Funding of Aerobica event

3.10 TREASURY (Div 9)

3.10.1 Outline of Selected Issues and Topics

Financial Federal-State Agreement

Treasury reported that a principal improvement to the state financial position came about as a result of the introduction of the real per capita guarantee to our financial assistance grants. These are part of the state's agreement to the competition policy arrangements.

High Court Franchise Fee Case

Treasury advised that the case brought by a wholesale cigarette distributor in the eastern states to challenge the legality of the state business franchise fee, may have significant financial impact. If the High Court ruled that all franchise fees were excises, the effect could be a loss of state revenue in the region of \$600 million.

Role of Treasury in relation to Contracts and Contracting out of Tenders

Treasury is intimately involved in the development of the guidelines that form the basis of the competitive tendering and contracting process that government agencies undertake. Treasury has a role in assisting agencies identify opportunities for making savings in their budgets, which can include contracting services. It has participated in a number of assessments of tenders as they have been submitted and in undertaking whole of government tenders. The agency role is one of assisting other agencies to ensure that the guidelines are properly applied. It is a matter for the Supply Commission and CAMS to ensure adequate compliance.

3.10.2 Summary of Subjects

Matters Discussed were as follows -

- Bankwest sale
- Commonwealth/State agreements
- SGIO sale
- Competition Reform Payments
- WADC revenue
- General purpose v Specific purpose grants
- Tax Equivalent Receipts
- Replacement of statutory corporation levies
- Recording of public properties
- High Court appeal on tobacco products franchise fee
- Role of Treasury in whole of government contracting-out
- Competitive tendering
- Elle Racing contract
- Management of Comswest contract
- Kingstream project
- Aboriginal employment & career development
- Joondalup health campus

- Act of grace payments
- Legal Aid Commission supplementation for 'Dietrich cases'
- Grants to charitable & other public bodies
- Treasury role in allocation of FTE numbers to agencies
- Tax equivalent payments - LandCorp

3.11 TRANSPORT (Div 40)

3.11.1 Outline of Selected Issues and Topics

Licensing Transactions by Vehicle Dealers

Transport stated that the rationale for this initiative is to enable car dealers to licence a vehicle or complete a vehicle transfer when a vehicle is purchased. The dealer will have a computer terminal on their premises that provides a direct link to the licensing division and enables them to complete that transaction. There is no compromise in safety standards because all vehicles that are sold must be checked prior to sale.

Infrastructure for the Oakajee Industrial Park

Transport indicated that any costs associated with this issue will be part of the government commitment to the project and not a part of Main Roads' or Westrail's operations.

Taxi User Subsidy Scheme

The agency reported that as part of an agreement with the Disability Services Commission, the allocation to the assistance program has increased from 50% to 75% and as a result an allocation in the order of \$6 million will be made. It was not included in the budget, but the agency acknowledges that it has the responsibility to provide that money.

3.11.2 Summary of Subjects

Matters discussed were as follows -

- Closure of vehicle licensing centres
- Tendering of vehicle licencing services
- Licencing of vehicles at car dealers
- Job loss through rationalisation of licencing centres
- Alexander Drive-Walcott Street speed limit review
- Speed limits in remote country areas
- Number of licence suspensions due to fines enforcement legislation
- Infrastructure for Oakajee industrial park
- Bridgetown bypass
- Notification to businesses of road works near their premises
- Savings from reduction in FTEs
- Corporate service overheads
- Cost of fare evasion
- Effect of Commonwealth budget on road funding
- Northbridge Tunnel
- Haze and smog - Belmont Park interchange
- Use of Public Transport
- Road maintenance cost and accident increases due to triple road trains
- Passing lanes - Kojonup to Albany
- Port Hedland to Woodie Woodie road upgrade

- Reduction in taxi user subsidy scheme
- Comparison between MetroBus and private operator performance
- Westrail *Avonlink* workers productivity pay increase
- Monitoring of passenger satisfaction
- Value of surplus land above Northbridge Tunnel
- Train Service Subsidy
- Privatised passenger service staff in Perth, Kalgoorlie, and Northam
- Bus Service Subsidy
- Broome marina complex
- Ballast water flushing facilities
- Funding for safety conditions on cycle ways
- Decline in petroleum fuels
- Estimated traffic flows for city northern bypass area
- Comparison of cost of private and public transport
- Heavy vehicle driver fatigue

3.12 PREMIER AND CABINET (Div 4)

3.12.1 Outline of Selected Issues and Topics

Communications Unit

The Communications Unit within Premier and Cabinet advises government agencies on how to develop public information and education campaigns and develops promotional strategies to meet public requirements. Examples provided included community services television campaigns advising women to adopt safety procedures when out at night and the campaign on anti-theft immobilisers. It is staffed by a Director who has access to the services of a contracted writer.

Computer Dispatch System for Emergency Services

The agency reported that the Public Sector Management Office is seeking to co-ordinate an upgrade of emergency communications between the police, the fire brigades, the Bush Fires Board, the State Emergency Service, and some private sector organisations, such as St John's Ambulance. It is an attempt to bring together all the agencies using the same equipment and systems so that all can communicate with each other in emergencies.

3.12.2 Summary of Subjects

Matters discussed were as follows -

- Communications, Advertising and Media Monitoring - resourcing
- Contracting out of mainframe and computing services of BIPAC consortium
- Provision of staff and equipment for minor parties in the Legislative Council
- Upgrade of emergency communications
- Evaluation and management of government contracts
- Harvey-Yarloop Health Service
- Profile of the Western Australian State Government Work Force
- Resourcing of Native Title Unit
- Rationalisation of structure and functions of the public sector

3.13 TRAINING (Div 46)

3.13.1 Outline of Selected Issues and Topics

Information Technology (IT)

The agency has established a task force to look specifically at the Year 2000 issue and is confident that it is addressing the problems. It is also examining software packages that are not part and parcel of their system-wide arrangement, to see if there are glitches in the arrangement.

Cost Effectiveness of Overseas Ventures of Individual Colleges

The agency conducts evaluations and TAFE International has over the last three to four years tended to move away from overseas projects which are dependent upon funding from AusAID, World Bank or the Asian Development Bank, to a focus on overseas students and twinning arrangements.

3.13.2 Summary of Subjects

Matters discussed were as follows -

- Overseas student intake into WA colleges
- FTE structure
- Workplace contracts
- Year 2000 issue
- TAFE Certificate of General Education for prisoners
- Identification of, and provision for, future high demand skill areas
- Upgrade of Rockingham TAFE campus
- Child care training in Rockingham
- Effectiveness of overseas ventures
- Vocational and education training in schools
- Fees and charges (“TAFE Fees and Charges Policy Guidelines” tabled)
- Industry Training Councils
- Management of autonomous colleges
- Funding of TAFE colleges - non-teaching costs
- Access to Internet
- Replacement and upgrade of Information Technology
- Controls over public property
- Accrual accounting
- Private sector involvement in the functions of the agency
- Skill Centre Funding

3.14 HEALTH (Div 64)

3.14.1 Outline of Selected Issues and Topics

Breast Cancer Screening program

The agency confirmed that a review is currently being undertaken of all possible methods of delivering breast assessment services. Included in that is the possibility of part of the service being contracted out. The screening process is also being considered under the review.

Central Waiting Lists

Health advised that the concept of a Central Waiting List for patients is still an idea which it wishes to explore. It acknowledges that it is a sensitive issue on a number of grounds, but with cooperation between the metropolitan hospitals, it is a strategy that might enable the agency to utilise unused capacity.

Laverton Health Clinic

The agency reported that an Aboriginal Medical Service facility being built at Laverton is funded by the Commonwealth and all efforts are being made to co-ordinate these facilities with state-delivered services.

3.14.2 Summary of Subjects

Matters discussed were as follows -

- Health Department cheques with no Payee
- Breast cancer screening review
- Recurrent expenditure increases
- Workplace agreements
- Flexible remuneration packages
- Fringe Benefits Tax
- Tax implications of salary packaging
- Nursing staff employment contracts
- Mental health
- Overseas recruitment of psychologists
- Psychology needs in Pilbara and Kimberley areas
- Fee for service - breast cancer screening
- Funding for teaching hospitals
- Hospital waiting lists/central wait list bureau
- Privatisation of services in hospitals - patient care and savings
- Family planning services
- Aboriginal health clinic in Laverton
- Methadone program wait list
- Short term contract staff
- Management of Geraldton Regional Hospital
- ACT legalised heroin program

- Gas fired boiler in Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital laundry
- Immunisation for measles and whooping cough
- Fee for service for Home and Community Care services
- Deferral of capital works programs in Armadale-Kelmscott, Kalamunda, Narrogin and Pemberton
- Site and size of capital works in the Armadale Kelmscott area
- Provision of MPS for Pemberton
- Reduction in elective surgery procedures/waiting lists
- Use of baits and chemicals to control Argentine ants/incidences of poisoning
- Aboriginal liaison officer, women's health
- Services to promote health enhancing or risk reduction behaviour
- Deaths in the aboriginal population resulting from digestive, endocrine and immunity disorders
- Survey to assess community attitudes to gun ownership and control
- Break down of rates of smoking by age group
- Decrease in budget for smoking and health programs over last five years
- Health Regulation amendment - meat inspectors employed by private companies
- Importation of meat produced at Victorian standards
- Remuneration of visiting medical practitioners
- Limits on functions and powers of hospital boards/charges to health care system by medical practitioners and others
- Research and planning to offset health problems caused by air pollution
- Vitamin A therapy program
- Restriction of medical practitioners able to prescribe dermatology drugs under the Poisons Act

3.15 LAND ADMINISTRATION (DOLA) (Div 65)

3.15.1 Outline of Selected Issues and Topics

Native Title

DOLA reported that it is extensively involved in the Native Title process. It assists in the mapping of claims as they are lodged, which has major resource implications, and it must comply with the requirements of the Commonwealth Native Title Act.

In many cases a fairly involved investigation of the history of land tenure is required. The agency may also conduct negotiations with Native Title or potential Native Title claimants. At this stage 400 land acts are being assessed which require processing under the Native Title Act. Native Title business has retarded the normal stream of bringing onto the marketplace developed crown land.

Information Technology (IT)

The agency advised that the manager of its systems development has been appointed to look at the Year 2000 issue closely. It has also approached various private sector organisations to investigate the matter.

Accountability of the continued outsourcing of IT is being managed by the Information Systems Division which looks after the Strategic Planning for the agency IT.

3.15.2 Summary of Subjects

Matters discussed were as follows -

- Native Title Claims
- Transfer of DOLA to Midland
- Net appropriations
- Contract for publishing and distributing the Metropolitan Street Directory
- Year 2000 issue
- Outsourcing of Information Technology needs
- Access to the Internet
- Upgrading of Information Technology to address technological change
- Level of Information Technology training
- Incorporation of Valuer General's Office into DOLA
- Public liability insurance on crown land
- Outsourcing of electronic data processing
- Charging for services
- Westrail property sales
- Controls over public property
- Accounting for sale of land



PARLIAMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL
OPERATIONS**

1997/98 ESTIMATES HEARINGS

LIST OF AGENCIES

1. HOMESWEST
2. MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
3. HEALTH DEPARTMENT
4. POLICE SERVICE
5. CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT
6. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
7. DEPARTMENT OF TRAINING
8. DEPARTMENT OF PRODUCTIVITY AND LABOUR RELATIONS
9. TOURISM COMMISSION
10. TREASURY
11. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
12. MINISTRY OF THE PREMIER AND CABINET
13. FISHERIES DEPARTMENT
14. AGRICULTURE
15. DEPARTMENT OF LAND ADMINISTRATION



PARLIAMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ESTIMATES HEARINGS 1997/98
TIMETABLE FOR HEARINGS
(Revised 26/5/97)

TIME	WEDNESDAY - 28 MAY 1997	THURSDAY - 29 MAY 1997	FRIDAY - 30 MAY 1997
9.45-10.00	MORNING TEA		
10.00-11.00	Homeswest	Department of Education	Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet
11.00-12.30	Fisheries Department		Department of Training
12.30-2.00	LUNCH		
2.00-3.00	Agriculture	Ministry of Justice	Health Department
3.00 -4.00		Department of Productivity and Labour Relations	
4.00-4.15	AFTERNOON TEA		
4.15-5.00	Police Service	Tourism Commission	Department of Land Administration
5.00-6.00		Treasury	
6.00-7.00	DINNER		
7.00-9.30	Conservation and Land Management	Department of Transport	

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

1997/98 ESTIMATES HEARINGS PROCEDURE POLICY

1. Circulation of invitations and procedural guidelines prior to the hearings

The Committee will issue invitations and procedural guidelines as follows:

(a) Agency representatives

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the responsible Minister for each agency included in the review will be issued invitations to attend the relevant hearing approximately one month in advance of the hearing date. Where however, conditions dictate otherwise, a shorter time frame may be necessary. Should this occur, the Committee will endeavour to advise the CEO and Minister at the earliest possible opportunity.

Consistent with the spirit of Standing Order 358, the invitation will indicate the general area of interest to the Committee.

(b) Members of the Legislative Council

Members of the Legislative Council will be issued invitations to attend the hearings approximately one month in advance of the date of the hearing. Where however, conditions dictate otherwise, a shorter time frame may be necessary. Should this occur, the Committee will endeavour to advise the Members at the earliest possible opportunity.

Once the Committee has determined which agencies will appear before it, Members of the Legislative Council will be informed of the agencies to be reviewed.

2. Witness Information Sheet

Ministerial advisors appearing before the hearings will be requested to complete a 'Witness Information Sheet' (copy attached at appendix A). All the information sought is necessary to allow Hansard to meet various requirements involved in producing a final and correct document.

3. Opening statements by agency representatives

Opening statements by the Minister and CEO will be collectively limited to no more than five minutes.

4. Order of questions

Precedence will be given to questions from Committee members.

Precedence will also be given to questions relating to reports or on-going areas of investigation of the Committee.

Questions will only be permitted during the time allocated for the hearing.

At the Chair's discretion, questions outstanding at the close of the hearing may be directed to the agency in writing through the Committee. Outstanding questions should be forwarded in writing to the Advisory/Research Officer (ARO) within 24 hours of the close of each hearing for forwarding to the agency via the responsible Minister. Response to the question should be forwarded to the ARO within five working days of receipt of the question.

5. Procedure for asking questions

During the hearings, questions should be directed through, and be acknowledged by, the Chair appointed for the particular hearing.

Responses to questions will be limited to one agency representative.

6. Type of questions permitted

Questions can be in regard to any matter relating to the financial administration of the State and should not:

- . be hypothetical or based on personal observation; or**
- . be questions regarding Government policy, unless directed toward the responsible Minister (SO359).**

7. Questions taken on notice

Questions that agency representatives are unable to answer during the hearing will be taken on notice.

Following the hearing, the ARO will forward a (faxed) copy of the question as it appears in the uncorrected Hansard to the office of the Minister responsible for the relevant agency. The responsible Minister must then on-forward such question to the relevant agency CEO.

Agencies responding to questions on notice should do so through their responsible Minister.

Agencies are asked to respond to questions on notice in the manner outlined in Appendix B.

Responses should be received by the ARO within five working days of the ARO's initial forwarding date of questions to the responsible Minister.

In any case where delays are expected to agency responses, the responsible Minister must immediately advise of the circumstances and the new response date.

**Committee Hearings
Information for Witnesses**

Important: Please read the following notes before giving evidence.

Full Name: (Title) (First Name) (Last Name)

Title of Position Held:

Business Name and Address:

Telephone: **Fax:**

Signature: **Date:**

Introduction

1. A committee hearing is a proceeding in Parliament. As such, you must not deliberately mislead the committee and you must respect the members of the committee and the committee's orders and procedures. If you do not comply with these requirements, you may be subject to legal penalties.

What happens at a hearing?

2. Committees are made up of members of Parliament. Usually there are 3 - 5 members of a committee.
3. You will be escorted to the committee's meeting room by one of the committee's staff. After you are seated, the chairperson of the committee will ask you:
 - 3.1 to state your full name, address and the capacity in which you appear before the committee; and
 - 3.2 if you have read and understood these notes.
4. The chairperson may invite you to make an opening statement to the committee.
5. The chairperson will then ask you a series of questions, following which other members of the committee may ask you more questions. If other members of the Legislative Council are present, they may also ask you questions. With limited exceptions (discussed below) you must answer questions you are asked.
6. The chairperson may invite you to make any additional comments you consider necessary.

Parliamentary privilege

7. Your evidence given to a committee is protected by parliamentary privilege. This means that your evidence, among other things, cannot be used against you in subsequent related proceedings in a court or tribunal.

Your entitlements

8. Unless the committee determines otherwise, in giving your evidence you are entitled to:
- (a) access to relevant documents;
 - (b) raise any matter of concern to you relating to evidence to be given or documents produced;
 - (c) benefit of counsel¹;
 - (d) apply for all or part of your evidence to be given in private session and for an order restricting publication of, or access to, that evidence;
 - (e) decline to answer a question or produce a document on the grounds that the question is unlawful or outside the scope of the matters in issue or under inquiry;
 - (f) be informed before your evidence is given that if part of it might incriminate you or another person, that fact should be made known to the committee before that part is actually given;
 - (g) know of and, if desired, rebut any allegations made against you whether or not those allegations amount to criminal conduct or dealing;
 - (h) a reasonable opportunity to correct errors in a transcript of evidence; and
 - (I) provide supplementary or new evidence.

Evidence in private session may be reported to the Legislative Council

9. Note that, even if your evidence is given to a committee in private session, or your evidence is subject to an order restricting publication of it or access to it, the committee can still report your evidence to the Legislative Council if it considers it necessary to do so. This means that your evidence may become public.

If you are a public servant

10. Public servants appearing before a committee in that capacity are entitled to refuse to answer questions on matters of policy. The committee must direct all such questions to the responsible Minister.

You must not disclose evidence

11. You must not publish or disclose any evidence given to a committee in private session unless that evidence has been reported to the Legislative Council in a public document. Premature publication or disclosure may:
- a. constitute a contempt of the Legislative Council; and
 - b. mean that the publication or disclosure of the relevant material is not subject to parliamentary privilege.

Transcript of your evidence

12. A transcript of your evidence will be made and sent to you for correction of typographical and transcription errors.

Threats or intimidation

13. If you have been threatened or intimidated by any person in respect of giving your evidence to the committee, you should immediately inform the committee or one of its staff.

¹ This means that you are entitled to have counsel (a legal or other adviser) present with you to advise you. It does not mean that you are entitled to be represented by counsel who responds to the committee on your behalf.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Ministerial officers should follow the format shown below when supplying questions on notice related supplementary information.

DAY: Day, Date Month 1997

DIVISION: 99 (if applicable) - Ministry of Good Fortune

QUESTION: Hon A.B. Brown (not “The Member for West Metropolitan”) asked

ANSWER: The actual expenditure.....



PARLIAMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

1997/98 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ESTIMATES HEARINGS

GENERIC QUESTIONS

- (1) Are there any new policies being introduced or scheduled for introduction in the 1997/98 financial year?
- (2) If yes to (1):
 - (a) what are they; and
 - (b) how are they to be funded?
- (3) If any new policies outlined in (2) are being funded from Consolidate Revenue, can you identify those funds in the Estimates?
- (4) Of the services to be provided by your Department/agency in the 1996/97 financial year, are any being considered for discontinuance, ie, the services will be terminated or progressively discontinued?
- (5) If yes to (4):
 - (a) what are they; and
 - (b) how are they described in the Estimates?
- (6) Of the services to be provided by your Department/agency in 1997/98, is it your intention, or has a decision been made, to contract out ("outsource") any services?

- (7) If yes to (6):
- (a) Can you describe those services to be contracted out and identify them in the Estimates?
 - (b) Is the figure of the Estimates for providing those services based on the costs of provision by the Department or the anticipated costs of contracting out or, depending on the time frame, a combination of both?
 - (c) Was this as a result of a specific policy decision by the Government, the Minister, or a Departmental decision?
 - (d) If the decision arises from a policy decision, can you state when that decision was made and what it contained?
 - (e) If the decision was departmental, what factors were taken into account in making it?
 - (f) Will contracts be awarded as a result of formal tenders, negotiations with one of more suppliers, or by other means? If not by tender or formal negotiations, what means will be used?
 - (g) Will the Department monitor performance under the contract, how will that be done, and what performance criteria, if any, are, or will be, specified in the contract?
 - (h) Has the Department sought legal advice in relation to the contract, particularly in matters such as performance specifications, grounds for termination, and whether the contractor might be viewed in law as a servant or agent of the Crown, and if so:
 - (i) what was the nature of the advice; and
 - (ii) has it caused you to alter any provision in the contract?
 - (i) Under the contract, who bears the costs of such matters as insurance and workers' compensation, and does the department agree to indemnify the contractor against losses?
 - (j) Will the Department need to subsidise contract performance, and if so, where is that provision shown in the Estimates?
 - (k) What is the total value of works contracted out?
 - (l) What has been the FTE reduction caused by contracting out?

- (8) With regard to Commonwealth Specific Purpose Grants:
- (a) how much of your Department/agency's budget in 1996/97 was made up of Commonwealth Specific Purpose Grants;
 - (b) what programs were these grants used for in 1996/97;
 - (c) how many FTE's are- provided for from this source;
 - (d) what amount of money do you expect to receive in the 1997/98 financial year from this source; and
 - (e) how is this figure arrived at and when will it be confirmed?
- (9) How much money was spent in 1996/97 by your Department on advertising?
- (10) List the Performance Indicators in table form for your department or agency and those relevant Performance Indicators from its predecessor since the introduction of the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985*.
- (11) Has the Auditor-General provided a qualified Audit Opinion with respect to your Performance Indicators and if so:
- (a) which Performance Indicators?
 - (b) in what years?
- (12) Please provide any other comments on the usefulness and relevance of these indicators in assessing the performance of your department or agency.
- (13) What have been the effects of the Commonwealth governments 1996/1997 funding arrangements on your department or agencies operations in 1996/1997?

COMMITTEE QUESTIONS (HEARINGS)

HOMESWEST

14. What processes has the agency adopted to implement appropriate Information Technology systems for its functions and needs?

This question in particular seeks your response to the following issues, although is not limited to these;

- (i) Has the agency ensured that any problems associated with the Year 2000 have been addressed?
 - (ii) Proper accountability for ongoing outsourcing of Information Technology needs?
 - (iii) Appropriate access to the Internet for employees of the agency?
 - (iv) Continuing need to replace and/or upgrade Information Technology to address technological change?
 - (v) Information Technology training for employees?
15. What action has the agency taken to ensure that the controls over the recording of public property are adequate to ensure for the appropriate asset control?
16. What processes has the agency adopted to ensure appropriate accountability of continued outsourcing such as the internal audit function and project management of land development projects?
17. What processes has the agency adopted to ensure appropriate accountability of private sector involvement in the functions of the agency?

FISHERIES

1. What processes has the agency adopted to implement appropriate Information Technology systems for its functions and needs?

This question in particular seeks your response to the following issues, although is not limited to these;

- (i) Has the agency ensured that any problems associated with the Year 2000 have been addressed?
 - (ii) Proper accountability for ongoing outsourcing of Information Technology needs?
 - (iii) Appropriate Access to the Internet for employees of the agency?
 - (iv) Continuing need to replace and/or upgrade Information Technology to address technological change?
 - (v) Information Technology training for employees?
2. What action has the agency taken to ensure that the controls over the recording of public property are adequate to ensure for the appropriate asset control?
3. What steps have been taken by the agency to ensure that a full accrual accounting system and fixed asset system will be implemented by June 30 1997?
4. What processes has the agency adopted to ensure appropriate accountability of private sector involvement in the functions of the agency?
5. What processes have been adopted to ensure that the introduction of cost recovery for pearling and Western Rock Lobster, Exmouth Gulf Prawn, Shark Bay Prawn, Shark Bay Scallop and Abalone Fisheries lead to improved accountability and transparency of cost allocation flow back to industry groups?
6. What resources has the agency devoted to ensure the sustainable management of fish resources for future recreational and commercial fishing?
7. What action has the agency taken to ensure the development of fish stock enhancement programs for identified waters or stocks?
8. What programs have been developed to protect fish habitats through a focus on aquatic environmental management and do such programs have a component of ongoing public education for both commercial and recreational fishing?

AGRICULTURE

1. What processes has the agency adopted to implement appropriate Information Technology systems for its functions and needs?

This question in particular seeks your response to the following issues, although is not limited to these;

- (i) Has the agency ensured that any problems associated with the Year 2000 have been addressed?
 - (ii) Proper accountability for ongoing outsourcing of Information Technology needs?
 - (iii) Access to the Internet for employees of the agency?
 - (iv) Continuing need to replace and/or upgrade Information Technology to address technological change?
 - (v) Information Technology training for employees?
2. What action has the agency taken to ensure that the controls over the recording of public property are adequate to ensure for the appropriate asset control?
3. What processes have been introduced to ensure management control effectiveness as a consequence of the implementation of a recent financial management systems and the devolution of accounting functions?
4. What processes has the agency adopted to ensure appropriate accountability of private sector involvement in the functions of the agency?
5. What is the financial impact to the agency of the Service agreements with the Agriculture Protection Board and the Rural Adjustment and Finance Corporation for the operational management of these agencies?
6. What resource allocation has the agency committed to finding and implementing solutions to salinity and chemical contamination threats?
7. What financial planning has the agency undertaken to meet the expenditure requirements on research, protection and industry promotion?
8. What risk management processes have been implemented to address the “risk” from exotic species and diseases?
9. What processes have been introduced to protect the intellectual property rights of patents and genetic engineering of crop species and animal species?
10. What processes has the agency taken to assist Industry Development of value adding strategies for agricultural products?

POLICE

1. What processes has the agency adopted to implement appropriate Information Technology systems for its functions and needs?

This question in particular seeks your response to the following issues, although is not limited to these;

- (i) Has the agency ensured that any problems associated with the Year 2000 have been addressed?
 - (ii) Proper accountability for ongoing outsourcing of Information Technology needs?
 - (iii) Appropriate access to the Internet for employees of the agency?
 - (iv) Continuing need to replace and/or upgrade Information Technology to address technological change?
 - (v) Information Technology training for employees?
2. What action has the agency taken to ensure that the controls over the recording of public property are adequate to ensure for the appropriate asset control?
3. What processes has the agency adopted to implement a new financial management system, replacing GAS in 1997-1998?
4. What processes has the agency adopted to ensure appropriate accountability of private sector involvement in the functions of the agency?
5. The following questions refer to the national quarterly survey "Community Satisfaction with Police Services".
 - (i) Which agency undertook the survey?
 - (ii) What were the total number of respondents from Western Australia?
 - (iii) What number of respondents were from the Metropolitan area?
 - (iv) What was the methodology adopted in the survey?
 - (v) What were the specific questions asked?
6. What processes has the agency adopted to ensure the development of satisfactory performance indicators with regard to *Satisfaction with Services Provided by the Police Service, Community Perceptions of Contact with the Police, Ratio of Sworn Police Officers to Population and Influencing Safer Driver Behaviour*?
7. What processes has the agency adopted to ensure that controls over the information system providing data for the effectiveness indicators *Offences Reported and Detected, and Offence Clearance Rates* are adequate?

8. What processes has the agency undertaken to effectively manage the implementation of the Vehicle Immobiliser Subsidy Program?
9. In the implementation of the State Crime prevention Strategy what processes has the agency adopted to ensure the effective management of the State Community Policing Crime Prevention Council and its actions?
10. In the formation of strategic partnerships with commerce, industry and community groups to address issues relating to crimes against property, what processes has the agency adopted to ensure the effective development of these partnerships?

CALM

1. What processes has the agency adopted to implement appropriate Information Technology systems for its functions and needs?

This question in particular seeks your response to the following issues, although is not limited to these;

- (i) Has the agency ensured that any problems associated with the Year 2000 have been addressed?
 - (ii) Proper accountability for ongoing outsourcing of Information Technology needs?
 - (iii) Appropriate access to the Internet for employees of the agency?
 - (iv) Continuing need to replace and/or upgrade Information Technology to address technological change?
 - (v) Information Technology training for employees?
2. What action has the agency taken to ensure that the controls over the recording of public property are adequate to ensure for the appropriate asset control?
3. What action has the agency taken to ensure that the decentralisation of accounting and management functions to country areas has adequate support from the central agency office?
4. What processes has the agency adopted to ensure appropriate accountability of private sector involvement in the functions of the agency?

EDUCATION

1. What processes has the agency adopted to implement appropriate Information Technology systems for its functions and needs?

This question in particular seeks your response to the following issues, although is not limited to these;

- (i) Has the agency ensured that any problems associated with the Year 2000 have been addressed?
 - (ii) Proper accountability for ongoing outsourcing of Information Technology needs?
 - (iii) Appropriate access to the Internet for employees of the agency?
 - (iv) Continuing need to replace and/or upgrade Information Technology to address technological change?
 - (v) Information Technology training for employees?
2. What action has the agency taken to ensure that the controls over the recording of public property are adequate to ensure for the appropriate asset control?
 3. What processes have been adopted to ensure management control effectiveness as a consequence of the implementation of a new financial management information system?
 4. What processes has the agency adopted to ensure appropriate accountability of private sector involvement in the functions of the agency?
 5. What processes has the agency adopted to ensure appropriate accountability in the implementation of the new payroll/Human resource system?
 6. What processes has the agency adopted to provide for effective mechanisms for rewarding agency employees on the basis of “merit”?

JUSTICE

1. What processes has the agency adopted to implement appropriate Information Technology systems for its functions and needs?

This question in particular seeks your response to the following issues, although is not limited to these;

- (i) Has the agency ensured that any problems associated with the Year 2000 have been addressed?
 - (ii) Proper accountability for ongoing outsourcing of Information Technology needs?
 - (iii) Appropriate access to the Internet for employees of the agency?
 - (iv) Continuing need to replace and/or upgrade Information Technology to address technological change?
 - (v) Information Technology training for employees?
2. What action has the agency taken to ensure that the controls over the recording of public property are adequate to ensure for the appropriate asset control?
 3. What processes has the agency adopted to ensure adequate accountability for the administration of the Fines Enforcement Registry?
 4. What processes has the agency adopted to ensure appropriate accountability of private sector involvement in the functions of the agency?
 5. What processes has the agency followed to ensure the development of satisfactory performance indicators ?

PRODUCTIVITY AND LABOUR RELATIONS

1. What processes has the agency adopted to implement appropriate Information Technology systems for its functions and needs?

This question in particular seeks your response to the following issues, although is not limited to these;

- (i) Has the agency ensured that any problems associated with the Year 2000 have been addressed?
 - (ii) Proper accountability for ongoing outsourcing of Information Technology needs?
 - (iii) Appropriate access to the Internet for employees of the agency?
 - (iv) Continuing need to replace and/or upgrade Information Technology to address technological change?
 - (v) Information Technology training for employees?
2. What action has the agency taken to ensure that the controls over the recording of public property are adequate to ensure for the appropriate asset control?
 3. What action has the agency taken to ensure that appropriate valuations over land and buildings are obtained for external reporting purposes?
 4. What processes has the agency adopted to ensure appropriate accountability of private sector involvement in the functions of the agency?
 5. What processes have been adopted to ensure management control effectiveness as a consequence of the implementation of a new financial management information system?

TOURISM

1. What processes has the agency adopted to implement appropriate Information Technology systems for its functions and needs?

This question in particular seeks your response to the following issues, although is not limited to these;

- (i) Has the agency ensured that any problems associated with the Year 2000 have been addressed?
 - (ii) Proper accountability for ongoing outsourcing of Information Technology needs?
 - (iii) Appropriate access to the Internet for employees of the agency?
 - (iv) Continuing need to replace and/or upgrade Information Technology to address technological change?
 - (v) Information Technology training for employees?
2. What action has the agency taken to ensure that the controls over the recording of public property are adequate to ensure for the appropriate asset control?
3. What action has the agency taken to ensure that appropriate valuations over land and buildings are obtained for external reporting purposes?
4. What processes has the agency adopted to ensure appropriate accountability of private sector involvement in the functions of the agency?
5. What processes has the agency adopted to ensure that the risks concerned with agency involvement in “high profile” sporting and leisure events is managed?

TREASURY

1. What processes has the agency adopted to implement appropriate Information Technology systems for its functions and needs?

This question in particular seeks your response to the following issues, although is not limited to these;

- (i) Has the agency ensured that any problems associated with the Year 2000 have been addressed?
 - (ii) Proper accountability for ongoing outsourcing of Information Technology needs?
 - (iii) Appropriate access to the Internet for employees of the agency?
 - (iv) Continuing need to replace and/or upgrade Information Technology to address technological change?
 - (v) Information Technology training for employees?
2. What action has the agency taken to ensure that the controls over the recording of public property are adequate to ensure for the appropriate asset control?
3. What role does the agency perform to ensure that appropriate valuations over land and buildings are obtained for external reporting purposes by itself and other agencies?
4. What processes has the agency adopted to ensure appropriate accountability of private sector involvement in the functions of the agency?
5. What processes have been adopted to ensure management control effectiveness as a consequence of the implementation of a new financial management information system?
6. How is the agency ensuring that agencies are implementing suitable financial management systems to replace GAS?
7. Has the agency evaluated the costs and benefits of moving from GAS to a system of each agency having responsibility for its own financial management?

TRANSPORT

1. What processes has the agency adopted to implement appropriate Information Technology systems for its functions and needs?

This question in particular seeks your response to the following issues, although is not limited to these;

- (i) Has the agency ensured that any problems associated with the Year 2000 have been addressed?
 - (ii) Proper accountability for ongoing outsourcing of Information Technology needs?
 - (iii) Appropriate access to the Internet for employees of the agency?
 - (iv) Continuing need to replace and/or upgrade Information Technology to address technological change?
 - (v) Information Technology training for employees?
2. What action has the agency taken to ensure that the controls over the recording of public property are adequate to ensure for the appropriate asset control?
 3. What action has the agency taken to ensure that appropriate valuations over land and buildings are obtained for external reporting purposes?
 4. What processes has the agency adopted to ensure appropriate accountability of private sector involvement in the functions of the agency?

PREMIER AND CABINET

1. What processes has the agency adopted to implement appropriate Information Technology systems for its functions and needs?

This question in particular seeks your response to the following issues, although is not limited to these;

- (i) Has the agency ensured that any problems associated with the Year 2000 have been addressed?
 - (ii) Proper accountability for ongoing outsourcing of Information Technology needs?
 - (iii) Appropriate access to the Internet for employees of the agency?
 - (iv) Continuing need to replace and/or upgrade Information Technology to address technological change?
 - (v) Information Technology training for employees?
2. What action has the agency taken to ensure that the controls over the recording of public property are adequate to ensure for the appropriate asset control?
3. What processes has the agency adopted to ensure adequate accountability for the administration of Ministerial and Parliamentary entitlements of the Western Australian parliament?
4. What processes has the agency adopted to ensure appropriate accountability of private sector involvement in the functions of the agency?
5. What processes has the agency followed to ensure the development of satisfactory performance indicators ?
6. What initiatives has the agency pursued in assisting in the coordination of risk management practices by agencies?

TRAINING

1. What processes has the agency adopted to implement appropriate Information Technology systems for its functions and needs?

This question in particular seeks your response to the following issues, although is not limited to these;

- (i) Has the agency ensured that any problems associated with the Year 2000 have been addressed?
 - (ii) Proper accountability for ongoing outsourcing of Information Technology needs?
 - (iii) Appropriate access to the Internet for employees of the agency?
 - (iv) Continuing need to replace and/or upgrade Information Technology to address technological change?
 - (v) Information Technology training for employees?
2. What action has the agency taken to ensure that the controls over the recording of public property are adequate to ensure for the appropriate asset control?
 3. What action has the agency taken to ensure that appropriate valuations over land and buildings are obtained for external reporting purposes?
 4. What processes has the agency adopted to ensure appropriate accountability of private sector involvement in the functions of the agency?
 5. What processes have been adopted to ensure management control effectiveness as a consequence of the implementation of a new financial management information system?
 6. What processes have been adopted to ensure for financial and systems management accountability following the devolution of the newly autonomous colleges?

HEALTH

1. What processes has the agency adopted to implement appropriate Information Technology systems for its functions and needs?

This question in particular seeks your response to the following issues, although is not limited to these;

- (i) Has the agency ensured that any problems associated with the Year 2000 have been addressed?
 - (ii) Proper accountability for ongoing outsourcing of Information Technology needs?
 - (iii) Appropriate access to the Internet for employees of the agency?
 - (iv) Continuing need to replace and/or upgrade Information Technology to address technological change?
 - (v) Information Technology training for employees?
2. What action has the agency taken to ensure that the controls over the recording of public property are adequate to ensure for the appropriate asset control?
3. What processes has the agency adopted to ensure appropriate accountability of continued outsourcing, such as the internal audit function?
4. What processes has the agency adopted to ensure appropriate accountability of private sector involvement in the functions of the agency?
5. What processes has the agency followed to ensure the development of satisfactory performance indicators, particularly given the introduction of the new disease based program structure?
6. What processes has the agency adopted to ensure that the risks involved in the provision of medical services in the WA hospital system are appropriately managed?
7. What processes has the agency adopted to ensure the development of accounting policies, practices and procedures to achieve the timely completion of annual financial statements?

DOLA

1. What processes has the agency adopted to implement appropriate Information Technology systems for its functions and needs?

This question in particular seeks your response to the following issues, although is not limited to these;

- (i) Has the agency ensured that any problems associated with the Year 2000 have been addressed?
 - (ii) Proper accountability for ongoing outsourcing of Information Technology needs?
 - (iii) Appropriate access to the Internet for employees of the agency?
 - (iv) Continuing need to replace and/or upgrade Information Technology to address technological change?
 - (v) Information Technology training for employees?
2. What action has the agency taken to ensure that the controls over the recording of public property are adequate to ensure for the appropriate asset control?
3. What processes has the agency adopted to ensure appropriate accountability of continued outsourcing, such as the EDP function?
4. What processes has the agency adopted to ensure appropriate accountability of private sector involvement in the functions of the agency?
5. What action has the agency taken to ensure that appropriate valuations of undeveloped Crown Land are obtained for external reporting purposes?

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

PREVIOUS REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE

1. 1990/91 Budget Estimates (November 1990)
2. 1991/92 Budget Estimates (November 1991)
3. Leasing of Computer Equipment for the Legislative Council (February 1992)
4. 1992/93 Budget Estimates (November 1992)
5. Programme Undertaken During 1992 (December 1992)
6. 1993/94 Budget Estimates (December 1993)
7. Public Submissions 1993/94 (April 1994)
8. Review of the Consolidated Fund Estimates 1994/95 (August 1994)
9. The Consolidated Fund Estimates 1994/95 (December 1994)
10. Performance Indicators (December 1994)
11. Scrutiny of Financial Administration Legislation in Various Jurisdictions (April 1995)
12. Review of the Consolidated Fund Estimates 1995/96 (August 1995)
13. Financial Administration and Audit Legislation in Australia and New Zealand: Implications for Western Australia (August 1995)
14. Estimates of Expenditure 1995/96 (November 1995)
15. Discussions held with representatives from the Department of Main Roads Western Australia pertinent to the Committee's Terms of Reference (April 1996)
16. The Estimates of Expenditure 1996/97 (June 1996)
17. Briefing and Tour provided by the Main Roads Department in regard to the City Northern Bypass Project (September 1996)
18. 1996/97 Estimates Cycle - Questions on Notice and Generic Questions (September 1996)
19. The Post 30 June 1996 Hearings - 1996/97 Estimates Cycle (October 1996)