



***ECONOMICS AND INDUSTRY  
STANDING COMMITTEE***

**ANNUAL REPORT 2004-2005**

**Report No. 2**

**in the 37<sup>th</sup> Parliament**

**2005**

**Published by the Legislative Assembly, Parliament of Western Australia, Perth, 18 August 2005.**

Printed by the Government Printer, State Law Publisher, Western Australia.



Economics and Industry Standing Committee

Annual Report 2004-2005

ISBN: 1 920830 49 9

(Series: Western Australia. Parliament. Legislative Assembly. Committees.  
Economics and Industry Standing Committee. Report 2)

328.365

Copies available from:

State Law Publisher  
10 William Street  
PERTH WA 6000

Telephone:

(08) 9321 7688

Facsimile:

(08) 9321 7536

Email:

[sales@dpc.wa.gov.au](mailto:sales@dpc.wa.gov.au)

Copies available on-line:

[www.parliament.wa.gov.au](http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au)



***ECONOMICS AND INDUSTRY  
STANDING COMMITTEE***

**ANNUAL REPORT 2004-2005**

**Report No. 2**

Presented by:

**Ms J.A. Radisich, MLA**

Laid on the Table of the Legislative Assembly  
on 18 August 2005



## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<b>Chair</b>	Ms J.A. Radisich, MLA Member for Swan Hills
<b>Deputy Chair</b>	Mr G.A. Woodhams, MLA Member for Greenough
<b>Members</b>	Mr T.R. Buswell, MLA Member for Vasse
	Mr M.P. Murray, MLA Member for Collie-Wellington
	Mr D.A. Templeman, MLA Member for Mandurah

## COMMITTEE STAFF

<b>Principal Research Officer</b>	Dr Karen Hall, BSc (Hons), PhD
<b>Research Officer</b>	Ms Jovita Hogan, BA (Hons)

## COMMITTEE ADDRESS

Economics and Industry Standing Committee  
Legislative Assembly  
Parliament House  
Harvest Terrace  
PERTH WA 6000

Tel: (08) 9222 7494  
Fax: (08) 9222 7804  
Email: [laeisc@parliament.wa.gov.au](mailto:laeisc@parliament.wa.gov.au)  
Website: [www.parliament.wa.gov.au](http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au)



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

COMMITTEE MEMBERS.....	i
COMMITTEE STAFF.....	i
COMMITTEE ADDRESS .....	i
COMMITTEE'S FUNCTIONS AND POWERS.....	v
CHAIR'S FOREWORD.....	vii
<b>CHAPTER 1</b> <b>COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.2 BRIEFINGS .....	1
1.3 REPORTS TABLED .....	2
1.4 WORK IN PROGRESS .....	2
1.5 WORK OF THE FORMER COMMITTEE .....	3
<b>CHAPTER 2</b> <b>FINANCIAL STATEMENT .....</b>	<b>5</b>





## COMMITTEE'S FUNCTIONS AND POWERS

The functions of the Committee are to review and report to the Assembly on: -

- (a) the outcomes and administration of the departments within the Committee's portfolio responsibilities;
- (b) annual reports of government departments laid on the Table of the House;
- (c) the adequacy of legislation and regulations within its jurisdiction; and
- (d) any matters referred to it by the assembly including a bill, motion, petition, vote or expenditure, other financial matter, report or paper.

At the commencement of each Parliament and as often thereafter as the Speaker considers necessary, the Speaker will determine and table a schedule showing the portfolio responsibilities for each committee. Annual reports of government departments and authorities tabled in the Assembly will stand referred to the relevant committee for any inquiry the committee may make.

Whenever a committee receives or determines for itself fresh or amended terms of reference, the committee will forward them to each standing and select committee of the Assembly and joint committee of the Assembly and Council. The Speaker will announce them to the Assembly at the next opportunity and arrange for them to be placed on the notice boards of the Assembly.



## CHAIR'S FOREWORD

The thirty-seventh Parliament has seen the establishment of the second Economics and Industry Standing Committee, of which I am proud to have been elected Chair.

Since its formation in April of this year, the Committee has been proactive in seeking information in relation to the portfolio responsibilities with which it has been charged. We have sought briefings from a number of agencies to familiarise ourselves with some of those areas of interest to the Committee. We have found this to be an extremely valuable exercise and will continue to work closely with agencies from all nineteen allocated portfolios during this Parliament.

The Committee has had eleven deliberative meetings in the eight sitting weeks that were available in the current session and members are to be commended for their commitment both to the Committee and its processes. I particularly wish to thank my Member colleagues for their commitment to the Committee, in view of the fact that the Committee generally meets in Perth, and four of the five members have electorates in regional Western Australia.

The members' commitment has been especially important during the current *Inquiry into the Production and Marketing of Foodstuffs*. This inquiry has been the main focus of the work of the Committee since it was referred by the Legislative Assembly in June of this year. The Committee also has two co-opted members from the Legislative Assembly to collaborate in the inquiry.

The Committees of the Parliament represent an essential component to the overall work performed by the Parliament for the betterment of Western Australia. The standing Committees allow for ongoing investigation and inquiry into the many portfolio areas within the jurisdiction. As the Committees are comprised of members from all parties, this work should be undertaken in a bi-partisan fashion to facilitate the best possible outcomes from each inquiry.

In order to allow the Committees to better perform their work some reform is required. At present, the budgetary allocation to the Committees of the Parliament is unclear, as it is submerged within the global budget of the Parliament. For every major expense the Committee must make application prior to incurring the expense. The application can be approved, rejected or amended. This subjective process may inhibit the work of the Committee.

To overcome this inefficiency, the process for funding Committee business should be refined. A clear budget would enable the Committees to plan and control their work within appropriately set parameters. This would contribute to improved transparency within the Parliament's budgetary processes.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the Principal Research Officer, Dr Karen Hall, and Research Officer, Ms Jovita Hogan, who undertake a wide variety of tasks on behalf of the Committee to ensure that our work is as efficient and effective as possible. I thank them for their invaluable contribution to the work of the Committee.

I look forward to continue working with my colleagues on the Committee to progress the *Production and Marketing of Foodstuffs Inquiry*, as well as to pursue other relevant issues over the coming years.

MS J.A. RADISICH, MLA  
CHAIR

## CHAPTER 1 COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

### 1.1 Introduction

During the course of this reporting period (Table 1.1), the Committee:

- Commenced one inquiry;
- Held eleven deliberative meetings;
- Has taken evidence from/or was briefed by eleven persons;
- Undertook a site visit to the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre;
- Tabled one report.

**Table 1.1**

**Summary of activities of the Economics and Industry Standing Committee, 7 April 2005 - 30 June 2005**

Description	Activity
Briefings	4
Deliberative meetings	11
Site Visits	1
Reports tabled	1

### 1.2 Briefings

The Committee received a number of informal briefings. The briefings were used to gain information in relation to the Committee's inquiries as well as other matters (Table 1.3).

**Table 1.3**

**Briefings provided to the Economics and Industry Standing Committee, 7 April 2005 - 30 June 2005**

Date	Name	Position	Organisation
18/05/2005	Mr Gary Stokes	Acting Director General	Department of Industry and Resources
25/05/2005	Mr Peter Rogers	Executive Director	Department of Fisheries
25/05/2005	Mr Peter Millington	Director of Fisheries Management Services	Department of Fisheries

Date	Name	Position	Organisation
25/05/2005	Mr Greg Finlay	Acting Manager Pearling and Aquaculture	Department of Fisheries
25/05/2005	Dr Greg Maguire	Supervising Research Scientist Aquaculture Development and Fisheries Environment	Department of Fisheries
22/06/2005	Mr Richard Muirhead	Chief Executive Officer	Tourism Western Australia
22/05/2005	Mr David Etherton	Executive Director Industry Development and Visitor Servicing	Tourism Western Australia
22/05/2005	Mr Steve Crawford	Director Policy and Planning	Tourism Western Australia
22/05/2005	Ms Helen Creed	Chair	Nature Based Tourism Advisory Committee
22/05/2005	Mr Ron Buckley	Acting Chief Executive Officer	Tourism Council of Western Australia
22/05/2005	Ms Jan Barrie	Board Member	Nature Based Tourism Advisory Committee

### 1.3 Reports Tabled

The Committee tabled one report during the period, 7 April 2005 - 30 June 2005 entitled:

*Progress Report on the Inquiry into the Production and Marketing of Foodstuffs.*

### 1.4 Work in Progress

#### **Inquiry into the Production and Marketing of Foodstuffs**

The Committee received a reference from the Legislative Assembly on 1 June 2005 to review and report on the following:

- (a) the market dominance of major food retail chains in Western Australia and their impact on all sections of the market, including production and wholesaling;

- 
- (b) the health and safety of imported foodstuffs, including fruit and vegetables and whether the standards applied in the country of origin are comparable with standards required in Australia;
  - (c) the labelling of foodstuffs and their origins to identify the location where produce is grown and packed;
  - (d) any other issue relevant to the production of fruit and vegetables and protection of food standards in Western Australia; and
  - (e) the role of, and mechanisms available to, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to restrict market dominance and tackle anti-competitive behaviour along with the effect of the *Trade Practices Act 1974* (Cwlth) on production and marketing, and to recommend any changes that should be made to the *Trade Practices Act 1974* (Cwlth).

Mr P.D. Omodei, and Mr D.T. Redman, are co-opted to participate in the Committee's inquiry. Submissions were called for and the Committee will report to the Legislative Assembly by 31 March 2006.

## **1.5 Work of the former Committee**

In the final stages of the previous Parliament, the former Economics and Industry Standing Committee finalised its inquiry into vanadium resources at Windimurra; tabling a final report in the Legislative Assembly on 11 November 2004.

The Committee also released an issues paper in December 2004 in relation to its inquiry into energy efficiency and renewable energy in Western Australia.





## CHAPTER 2 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Economics and Industry Standing Committee does not have its own formal budget and is funded out of the budget of the Legislative Assembly. Approval for major expenditures is required on a case-by-case basis and is entirely at the discretion of the Speaker.

The Committee's expenditure for the financial year 7 April 2005 - 30 June 2005 (in accordance with Standing Order 276) is detailed below:

**Table 2.1**

**Expenditure Items of the Economics and Industry Standing Committee, 7 April 2005 - 30 June 2005**

Expenditure Item	\$
Advertising	6600
Protocol	100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6700</b>

Notes:

- Figures rounded off to nearest \$100.
- Salaries of committee staff are not included.
- Costs of shared administrative expenses, including lease costs for committee accommodation, not included.