



***ECONOMICS AND INDUSTRY
STANDING COMMITTEE***

ANNUAL REPORT 2005-2006

Report No. 5

in the 37th Parliament

2006

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Economics and Industry Standing Committee

Annual Report 2005-2006

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ANNUAL REPORT 2005-2006

Report No. 5

Presented by:

Ms J.A. Radisich, MLA

Laid on the Table of the Legislative Assembly
on 28 September 2006

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair

Ms J.A. Radisich, MLA
Member for Swan Hills

Deputy Chair

Mr G.A. Woodhams, MLA
Member for Greenough

Members

Dr J.M. Edwards, MLA
Member for Maylands

Mr M.P. Murray, MLA
Member for Collie-Wellington

Mr A.J. Simpson, MLA
Member for Serpentine-Jarrahdale

COMMITTEE STAFF

Principal Research Officer

Ms Jessica Shaw, BA (Dist), BA
(Hons), LLB (Hons), LLM
from 10.07. 2006 to 27.10. 2006

Dr Karen Hall, BSc (Hons), PhD
from 26.04.2005 to 31.03.2006

Research Officer

Ms Jovita Hogan, BA (Hons)

COMMITTEE ADDRESS

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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 report of government departments and authorities tabled in the Assembly will stand referred to the relevant committee for any inquiry the committee any 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

I am pleased to present the second annual report of the Economics and Industry Standing Committee of the thirty-seventh Parliament. The report gives a brief synopsis of the work of the Committee during the reporting period 1 July 2005 - 30 June 2006.

The Committee has had twenty five meetings in the twenty one sitting weeks within the reporting period and members are to be commended for their commitment to the shared public policy goals from the Committee's work.

The Committee has, however, faced a number of challenges as a result of the inadequacies and over-bureaucratisation of the Legislative Assembly Committee processes. In this vein, the Committee has made contribution to a review of the Legislative Assembly's Committee system by way of written submission. Changes to the current system must be made to allow for independent and transparent operations of the Parliamentary Committees.

The relationship between Government and the Parliament is also noteworthy at this juncture. Under the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly the Government is required to formally respond to Committee reports within 90 days. It is disappointing that, at the time of writing, and some six months since the tabling of the *Inquiry into the Production and Marketing of Foodstuffs*, a response from Government has not yet been delivered.

Membership of the Committee has altered over the past twelve months with Mr Troy Buswell and Mr David Templeman being replaced by Mr Tony Simpson and Dr Judy Edwards respectively. I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank the two former members for their contribution and welcome our two new members. I also note the significant input from Mr Terry Redman, who was coopted to join the *Inquiry into the Production and Marketing of Foodstuffs Inquiry*.

I would also like to acknowledge the former Principal Research Officer, Dr Karen Hall, who left us to take up a position with the Legislative Council, and Research Officer, Ms Jovita Hogan who continues to work with the Committee. We are fortunate to now have Ms Jessica Shaw in the role of Principal Research Officer, who is a highly-skilled and experienced addition to our team.

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:

- Conducted 1 inquiry;
- Held 25 deliberative meetings;
- Has taken evidence from/or was briefed by 44 persons;
- Undertook investigative travel to Denmark, Western Australia and New Zealand; and
- Attended 1 conference.

Table 1.1

Summary of activities of the Economics and Industry Standing Committee, 1 July 2005 - 30 June 2006

Description	Activity
Briefings	19
Deliberative meetings	25
Formal evidence hearings	8
Witnesses appearing	18
Reports tabled	3
Report findings tabled	202
Report recommendations tabled	23

1.2 Public Hearings

Pursuant to Assembly Standing Order 264, the Committee has power to send for persons, papers and records. During the period 1 July 2005 - 30 June 2006, the Committee conducted 8 public hearings, taking evidence from 18 witnesses to assist with its investigations (Table 1.2).

Table 1.2

Public Hearings of the Economics and Industry Standing Committee, 1 July 2005 - 30 June 2006

ECONOMICS AND INDUSTRY STANDING COMMITTEE

CHAPTER 1

Date	Witness	Position	Organisation
21/09/05	Mr Peter Rutherford Mr Terrence O'Beirne	Board Member Executive Officer	ChemCert WA
21/09/05	Mr Trevor Lovelle Mr Iain Macgregor Mrs Elizabeth Frankish	Industry Development Adviser Chairman, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Food Working Group Chair, Chamber of Commerce and Industry Food Industry Committee	Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia
12/10/05	Ms Nicole Fernandez Mr Stuart Clarke Mr Christopher Sharpe Ms Valerie Kelly	Food Integrity Manager Acting Executive Director, Food & Trade Development Chemical Adviser Trade Policy Analyst	Department of Agriculture
12/10/05	Mr Peter Millington Mr Donald Nicholls	Director, Fisheries Management Services	Department of Fisheries
19/10/05	Mr James Dodd Mr Lindsay Gillam	Director of Environmental Health Acting Principal Food Scientist	Department of Health
09/11/05	Mr Stephen Bate	General Manager, Fresh Foods	Woolworths Ltd

Date	Witness	Position	Organisation
09/11/05	Mr Edward Moore Mr Chris Mara Mr Geoff Rowden	General Manager, Regulatory Affairs Adviser Buyer	Coles Myer Ltd
09/11/05	Mr John Cummings	President	WA Independent Grocers Association

1.3 Briefings

In addition to gathering evidence during the formal hearings, the Committee received a number of 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, 1 July 2005 - 30 June 2006

Date	Name	Position	Organisation
08/08/05	R & D Lewis		Ducketts Mill Wines & Denmark Farmhouse Cheese
08/08/05	J Ross		Waggledance Honey
08/08/05	A Brink		A & E Brink Organic Produce
08/08/05	H Shapland		Great Southern Marketing Association
08/08/05	D East		Manjimup Growers
08/08/05	P Marshall		Torbay Asparagus and Raspberries
08/08/05	T Ackley		Potato Growers Association
08/08/05	N Handasyde		Handasyde Strawberries
09/08/05	G Ravenhill		Ravenhill Dairy
09/08/05	R Cybula		Dewsons Supermarket Denmark
09/08/05	I Williams		Lower King Store Albany
27/09/05	B Cutress	Executive Director	New Zealand Food and Grocery Council

Date	Name	Position	Organisation
27/09/05	J Pask	Economist	Business New Zealand
27/09/05	G Thorn P Taylor	General Manager General Counsel	New Zealand Commerce Commission
27/09/05	R Ogg	Manager, Trade and Economic	Meat Industry Association of New Zealand
23/11/05	S Di Scerni R Antich S Gregson P Palisi	Regional Director General Manager, Policy Liaison General Manager, Adjudication A/General Manager, Mergers	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
24/01/06	M Adam L Gillam	Senior Legal Adviser Acting Principal Food Scientist	Department of Health
24/01/06	S Grocott Bruce Robins	Director, Business Development General Manager, Business Access	Department of Industry and Resources
20/02/06	G Beales	Chairman	Citrus Council (WA)

1.4 Investigative Travel

The Committee travelled to Denmark, Western Australia in for a series of briefings from industry groups and individuals in relation to its' *Inquiry into the Production and Marketing of Foodstuffs*. The Committee also gathered evidence in New Zealand in relation to the same inquiry. The people the Committee spoke to are listed above in Tables 1.2 and 1.3.

1.5 Conferences

The Committee attended the Regional Science Association International Australian and New Zealand Conference in Auckland in relation to its portfolio responsibility of regional development. The Committee took the opportunity to combine attending this conference along with the briefings held in New Zealand as listed in table 1.3.

1.6 Reports Tabled

The Committee tabled 3 reports during the period 1 July 2005 - 30 June 2006, they were as follows:

Report No. 2 Annual Report 2004-2005

Report No. 3 Progress Report on the Production and Marketing of Foodstuffs

Report No. 4 Report on the Production and Marketing of Foodstuffs

1.7 Work in Progress

(i) *Inquiry*

The Committee has commenced an inquiry into the State Government's Role in developing and promoting information communications technology (ICT) in Western Australia. In particular, the Committee will examine:

- (a) the nature of assistance available to business to develop ICT technology;
- (b) the nature of assistance available to business to market ICT technology;
- (c) the effectiveness of support given to the local sector by the State Government, including an evaluation of procurement processes; and
- (d) any other issues the Committee deems relevant to the Inquiry.

(ii) *Submission*

The Committee presented a submission to the Legislative Assembly's Procedure and Privileges Committees' *Review of the Legislative Assembly's Committee System and Other Matters* in March 2006.

Matters this Committee raised for review included:

- Committees' membership and chairmanships;
- Standing Committee's portfolio workloads;
- sources of terms of reference;
- autonomy;
- remuneration of the committee Chair; and

- recommendations for a discreet budget allocation.

The Committee is currently awaiting the outcome of that review.

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 1 July 2005 - 30 June 2006 (in accordance with Standing Order 276) is detailed below:

Table 2.1

Expenditure Items of the Economics and Industry Standing Committee, 1 July 2005 - 30 June 2006

Expenditure Item	\$
Conference Fees	3000
Travel	31700
Protocol	1000
Printing	7700
Legal Fees	7000
TOTAL	50400

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.