

**40TH PARLIAMENT**



## **Report 75**

# **STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS**

*Corrections to Report 73: 2017-18 Budget Cycle – Part 1:  
Estimates hearings and related matters*

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Presented by  
Hon Alanna Clohesy MLC (Chair)  
August 2018

## **Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations**

### **Members as at the time of this inquiry:**

Hon Alanna Clohesy MLC (Chair)

Hon Diane Evers MLC

Hon Aaron Stonehouse MLC

Hon Tjorn Sibma MLC (Deputy Chair)

Hon Colin Tincknell MLC

### **Staff as at the time of this inquiry:**

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Ms Tracey Sharpe (Committee Clerk)

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# 1 Introduction

- 1.1 In May 2018, the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations (Committee) tabled Report 73: *2017-18 Budget Cycle – Part 1: Estimates hearings and related matters*.

## 2 Corrections

- 2.1 Report 73 contains a section on the provision of information to the Committee, which details instances when a Minister has decided not to provide information to the Committee. The Report advises that the Minister for Regional Development (the Minister) did not provide a business case for the one-off grant to the Surf Life Saving Association of Western Australia because the document was Cabinet-in-confidence.
- 2.2 However, the Minister did provide an answer to the question and further information to a related additional question following the hearings. This fact was inadvertently overlooked by the Committee at the time that Report 73 was tabled in the House. Accordingly, this section of the Report should not have included any reference to the Minister.
- 2.3 In light of this, the Committee apologises for this error and seeks to correct the record. A number of consequential corrections are required to Report 73.

### Correction 1

- 2.4 On page 7, paragraph 3.3, the sentence:

Over the course of the Committee's consideration of the 2017-18 Budget Estimates, Ministers decided not to provide information to the Committee on three occasions.

should read:

Over the course of the Committee's consideration of the 2017-18 Budget Estimates, Ministers decided not to provide information to the Committee on two occasions.

### Correction 2

- 2.5 On page 7, Table 2 should read:

Table 2. Instances of non-provision of information

Minister	Agency	Issue	Basis for non-provision
Minister for Emergency Services	Department of Fire and Emergency Services	Funding priorities for the asset management plan <sup>15,16</sup>	Cabinet-in-confidence
Minister for Tourism	Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation	Funding provided to Gourmet Escape in 2017 <sup>17,18</sup>	Commercial-in-confidence

<sup>15</sup> Hon Stephen Dawson, Minister representing the Minister for Emergency Services, *Transcript of evidence (Department of Fire and Emergency Services)*, 18 October 2017, p 8.

<sup>16</sup> Answer to Additional Question No. 2 asked by Hon Martin Aldridge and answered by Minister for Emergency Services, 4 December 2017, p 2.

<sup>17</sup> Hon Alannah MacTiernan, Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade, *Transcript of evidence (Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation)*, 16 October 2017, p 8.

<sup>18</sup> Answer to Supplementary Information No. C3 asked by Hon Dr Steve Thomas and answered by Minister for Tourism, 3 November 2017, p 1.

### **Correction 3**

2.6 On pages 7-8, paragraph 3.5 should read:

As at 22 March 2018, the Minister for Emergency Services<sup>20,21</sup> and the Minister for Tourism<sup>22,23</sup> had notified the Parliament and the Auditor General of their decision not to provide information to the Committee.

### **Correction 4**

2.7 All footnotes in the Report from footnote 25 on should be one unit less.



Hon Alanna Clohesy MLC

**Chair**

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<sup>20</sup> Tabled Paper 1056, Legislative Council, 13 March 2018.

<sup>21</sup> Tabled Paper 1040, Legislative Assembly, 13 February 2018.

<sup>22</sup> Tabled Paper 861, Legislative Council, 9 November 2017.

<sup>23</sup> Tabled Paper 944, Legislative Assembly, 9 November 2017.

# APPENDIX 1

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## RESPONSES FROM THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1.1 In Questions Prior to Hearings, the Minister provided the following response to questions asked by the Hon Martin Aldridge MLC:

(d) Will you provide the business case for the expenditure of funds?

Answer: No

(e) If not to (d), why not?

Answer: The considerations with respect to the provision of the grant were subject to Cabinet deliberations. In any event the funding is continuing a suite of services many of which have been operating for a number of years and were supported by the previous Government.<sup>1</sup>

1.2 In Additional Questions, the Minister provided the following response to follow-up questions asked by the Hon Martin Aldridge MLC:

b) With respect to your refusal to provide the business case in response to part (d) of the question, do you intend to satisfy your obligations under Section 82 of the *Financial Management Act 2006*?

Answer: As this funding is simply a continuation of a suite of services many of which have been operating for a number of years and were supported by the previous Government, no business case was prepared.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Answer to Question Prior to Hearings no 11 asked by the Hon Martin Aldridge MLC and answered by the Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development; Jobs and Trade, 10 October 2017, p 12.

<sup>2</sup> Answer to Additional Questions no 17 asked by the Hon Martin Aldridge MLC and answered by Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development; Jobs and Trade, 7 November 2017, p 17.

## Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations

### Date first appointed:

30 June 2005

### Terms of Reference:

The following is an extract from Schedule 1 of the Legislative Council Standing Orders:

#### '3. Estimates and Financial Operations Committee

3.1 *An Estimates and Financial Operations Committee* is established.

3.2 The Committee consists of 5 Members, 3 of whom shall be non-Government Members.

3.3 The functions of the Committee are to –

(a) consider and report on –

(i) the estimates of expenditure laid before the Council each year;

(ii) any matter relating to the financial administration of the State; and

(iii) any Bill or other matter relating to the foregoing functions referred by the Council;

and

(b) consult regularly with the Auditor General.'



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