



PARLIAMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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THIRTY-FOURTH REPORT

OF THE

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**

**REVIEW OF OPERATIONS FOR
1992**

Presented by the Hon Barry House (Chairman)

34

SEPTEMBER 1993

The Standing Committee was appointed, pursuant to then Legislative Council Standing Order 38 on April 7 1982 with the following terms of reference:

- (i) To make such examination as it deems necessary and to inquire into the purpose, finance, accountability, extent, nature, administrative control and methods of State Government agencies, including statutory corporations, primary produce boards, regulatory and quasi-judicial bodies, trustees of government agencies, advisory committees and local and regional bodies (excluding municipal authorities) that are the subject of legislation of the Western Australian Parliament, with the exception of those agencies listed in the Schedule to these Orders.
- (ii) To report to the House upon any matter concerning the government authorities referred to in paragraph (i) or any recommendations for abolition or amalgamation of them, or any findings particularly in regard to the productivity, efficiency, economy, effectiveness, organisation and circumstances connected with them to which the Committee thinks the attention of the House should be directed.
- (iii) To inquire into and report to the House upon any question in connection with government agencies which is referred to the Committee by resolution of the House.
- (iv) To inquire into and where necessary, report to the House when, in the view of the Committee, any agency duplicates all or part of the work of another.
- (v) To recommend as it deems necessary the application of the "Sunset" principle to any government agency.

The "Sunset" principle is defined as a process whereby a government agency's existence is automatically terminated after a certain period unless specific reauthorising legislation is enacted.

Members of the Committee:

Hon Norman Moore (Chairman)
Hon Tom Stephens (Deputy Chairman)
Hon John Halden
Hon Barry House
Hon George Cash
Hon Doug Wenn

Staff of the Committee:

Mrs Margaret Liveris (Clerk to the Committee)
Mr Phil Knight (Advisory/Research Officer)

Address: Parliament House, Perth, WA 6000 Telephone 222 7222

Parliament of Western Australia

Legislative Council

Thirty-Fourth Report

of the

Standing Committee

on

Government Agencies

Review of Operations for 1992

Presented by the Hon Barry House (Chairman)

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September 1993

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PREVIOUS REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE

- First Report: November 1982.
- Second Report: "Government Agencies in Western Australia".
First Edition: July 1983.
Second Edition: May 1985.
Third Edition: November 1987.
Fourth Edition: December 1989.
- Third Report: "Annual Reporting Requirements for Government Agencies":
December 1983.
- Fourth Report: "Review of Operations 1984": February 1985.
- Fifth Report: "Review of Annual Reports for 1984": February 1985.
- Sixth Report: "A Framework of Accountability for Government Agencies": June
1985.
- Seventh Report: "The Urban Lands Council of Western Australia": September 1985.
- Eighth Report: "Review of Operations for 1985": July 1986.
- Ninth Report: "Resumption of Land by Government Agencies - Proposals for
Reform": August 1986.
- Tenth Report: "A Review of the Lotteries Commission of Western Australia":
November 1986.
- Eleventh Report: "1985/86 Annual Reports of Government Agencies": December 1986.
- Twelfth Report: "Review of Operations for 1986": April 1987.
- Thirteenth Report: "Resumption of Land by Government Agencies - Final Report": May
1987.
- Fourteenth Report: "A Review of Coal Industry Agencies": June 1987.
- Fifteenth Report: "A Review of the Builders' and Painters' Registration Boards":
September 1987.
- Sixteenth Report: "Delayed Payment of Accounts by Government Agencies": December
1987.
- Seventeenth Report: "Review of Agencies - A Statement of Principle": December 1987.
- Eighteenth Report: "Review of Operations for 1987": December 1987.
- Nineteenth Report: "The Use of Plain English in Government Writing: Some Preliminary
Findings": May 1988.

- Twentieth Report: "Review of Country High School Hostels' Authority": September 1988.
- Twenty-First Report: "The Financial Management and Accountability of the State Government Insurance Commission and Corporation" (Interim Report): December 1988.
- Twenty-Second Report: "Review of Operations for 1988": April 1989.
- Twenty-Third Report: "Review of Previous Committee Reports – Implementation of Recommendations": October 1989.
- Twenty-Three A Report: "Report on the Statutory Corporations (Directors' Liability) Bill": December 1989.
- Twenty-Fourth Report: "Implementation of Committee Recommendations": June 1990.
- Twenty-Fifth Report: "Review of Operations for 1989": July 1990.
- Twenty-Sixth Report: "The Financial Management and Accountability of the State Government Insurance Commission and Corporation – Final Report": July 1990.
- Twenty-Seventh Report: "Review of Operations for 1990": June 1991.
- Twenty-Eighth Report: "The Establishment, Role and Scrutiny of Government Agencies – Interim Report – (Survey of Government Agencies)": December 1991.
- Twenty-Ninth Report: "South West Development Authority (SWDA): April 1992.
- Thirtieth Report: "The Establishment, Role and Scrutiny of Government Agencies – Interim Report No. 2 – (Survey of Government Agencies)": June 1992.
- Thirty-First Report: Review of Operations for 1991: August 1992.
- Thirty-Second Report: "The Establishment, Role and Scrutiny of Government Agencies – Interim Report No. 3 – The Identification and Parliamentary Oversight of Government Agencies": October 1992.
- Thirty-Third Report: "Perth Market Authority – Preliminary Report": December 1992.

Mr President

It is with pleasure that I submit the Standing Committee on Government Agencies' Ninth Annual Report for the calendar year of 1992.

One new member, the Hon George Cash, joined the Committee replacing the Hon Murray Montgomery and the Hon Norman Moore was re-elected Chairman in April 1992.

The inquiry into "The Establishment, Role and Scrutiny of Government Agencies" continued during the year with two further interim reports on this inquiry tabled. The Committee also commenced an extensive inquiry into the Perth Market Authority.

In all, five Reports were tabled during the year and are as follows -

No. 29 - "South West Development Authority (SWDA): April 1992.

No. 30 - "The Establishment, Role and Scrutiny of Government Agencies - Interim Report No. 2 - (Survey of Government Agencies)": June 1992.

No. 31 - "Review of Operations for 1991": August 1992.

No. 32 - "The Establishment, Role and Scrutiny of Government Agencies - Report: Interim Report No. 3 - The Identification and Parliamentary Oversight of Government Agencies": October 1992.

No. 33 - "Perth Market Authority - Preliminary Report": December 1992.

The Parliament was prorogued on December 16 1992. Hence, the Committee's work ceased until it was reconstituted on August 3 1993.

The prime objective of the Committee for 1993 is to complete its inquiries into "The Establishment, Role and Scrutiny of Government Agencies" and the Perth Market Authority.



HON BARRY HOUSE, MLC
CHAIRMAN



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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Standing Committee on Government Agencies was established by the Legislative Council on April 7 1982 and the first members were appointed to the Committee on April 21 1982. The establishment of the Committee was a direct result of the report of the Select Committee on Government Agencies which was appointed by the Legislative Council on October 1 1980.
- 1.2. Support for the Committee's establishment was derived from all political parties in the Legislative Council. The impetus for the Committee's establishment may be found in general expressions of concern about the limited information available with regard to the extent and operation of government agencies, and the degree to which those agencies are accountable to parliament for their actions.
- 1.3. The Committee held its first meeting on April 21 1982. In the period April 1982 to December 1992 the Committee published thirty-three reports including four revised editions of the Second Report. In addition the Committee has published reports on three Bills referred to the Committee by the Legislative Council.

PART 2: FUNCTIONS AND OBJECTIVES

FUNCTIONS

- 2.1. The functions of the Committee are laid down in Legislative Council Standing Order 310, which is set out as Appendix 1 to this Report.
- 2.2. In summary, the Standing Orders require the Committee to:
- (a) inquire into the purpose, finance, accountability, extent, nature, administrative control and methods of government agencies;
 - (b) report to the Legislative Council on its inquiries and, as appropriate, make recommendations for the abolition or amalgamation of government agencies;
 - (c) inquire into, and report on, any question in connection with government agencies which is referred to the Committee by the Legislative Council;
 - (d) inquire into, and report on, any duplication of effort by government agencies; and
 - (e) recommend as necessary the application of the sunset principle to any government agency.
- 2.3. The term "government agency" is not exclusively defined by the Standing Orders. However Standing Order 310(a)(i) provides that "government agency" includes any "statutory corporations, primary produce boards, regulatory and quasi-judicial bodies, trustees of government agencies, advisory committees and local and regional bodies" which are the subject of Western Australian legislation. Municipal authorities are specifically exempted from the Committee's jurisdiction as are a number of specific bodies. While not all government departments have been specifically exempted from the Committee's jurisdiction, the Committee has resolved not to examine matters relating to government departments until the matter is considered more fully in the context of a review of Standing Order 310.

OBJECTIVES

- 2.4. In carrying out its functions, the Committee aims to achieve the following objectives:
- (a) increased public knowledge of the size, activities and performance of the government agency sector in Western Australia;
 - (b) improved accountability of all government agencies in Western Australia; and
 - (c) improved efficiency and effectiveness in the government agency sector in Western Australia.

PART 3: MEMBERSHIP, STAFF AND PROCEDURE

MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1. The Committee consists of six members appointed by the Legislative Council. Unlike other Standing Committees of the Legislative Council, the President of the Council is not an *ex officio* member of the Committee.
- 3.2. In April, the Hon Norman Moore was re-elected as the Committee Chairman. The Hon Tom Stephens was re-elected Deputy Chairman.
- 3.3. The members of the Committee are -
- The Hon Norman Moore, MLC (Chairman) (LIB)
 - The Hon Tom Stephens, MLC (Deputy Chairman) (ALP)
 - The Hon Barry House, MLC (LIB)
 - The Hon John Halden, MLC (ALP)
 - The Hon George Cash, MLC (LIB)
 - The Hon Doug Wenn, MLC (ALP)

PROFILE OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

3.4. Hon Norman Moore (Chairman)

Member for the Mining and Pastoral Region

Mr Moore was born in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia and educated at Bullfinch Primary School and Northam Senior High School. He completed a Bachelor of Arts and a Diploma of Education at the University of Western Australia and a Teachers' Higher Certificate at Claremont Teachers College.

Mr Moore taught at a number of District High Schools (DHS) and was the Principal of the Tom Price DHS in 1975 and Principal of the Laverton DHS in 1976.

Mr Moore was elected to Parliament in 1977 and between 1980/82 was the Parliamentary Secretary of the Cabinet in the Court Government. In 1982 he became a member of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies.

He was also the Chairman of the Select Committee of Inquiry into Aboriginal Poverty in 1984/85. Mr Moore has also held various positions in the Shadow Cabinet during his Parliamentary career. Mr Moore was elected Chairman of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies in May 1990.

3.5. **Hon Tom Stephens (Deputy Chairman)**

Member for the Mining and Pastoral Region

Mr Stephens was born in Sydney and educated at St Gregory's Marist Brothers Agricultural College, Campbelltown NSW and studied Philosophy and Theology as part of an uncompleted course of studies for the Catholic Priesthood. Mr Stephens then completed an Arts Degree at the Australian National University in Canberra.

Mr Stephens worked with Aboriginal Community projects in Redfern, and then in the Kimberley region and was the inaugural administrator of the Kimberley Land Council. He also worked as the Research Officer for the Federal member for Kalgoorlie, Graeme Campbell, before entering parliament at a by-election in July 1982.

Since being elected to parliament in 1982, Mr Stephens has served on Select Committees of the Legislative Council looking into Aboriginal Poverty and Aboriginal Funding programs. He also served as a member of the Select Committee looking into the State Energy Commission's advance purchase of coal from Western Collieries in 1988 and on a Privileges Committee on the Legislative Council in the same year.

Mr Stephens was Chairman of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies from September 1989 until May 1990.

Mr Stephens is Parliamentary Secretary of State to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development; in this capacity Mr Stephens chairs the Exmouth Consultative Forum for Transition Planning.

3.6. **Hon Barry House**

Member for the South West Region

Mr House was born in Western Australia and educated at Busselton Senior High School. Mr House completed an Economics Degree at the University of Western Australia and a Teaching Certificate at Nedlands College of Advanced Education.

Before entering Parliament, Mr House was a School Teacher at Kalgoorlie, Kewdale, Churchlands and Busselton Senior High Schools. Mr House was the Youth Education Officer at the Busselton Senior High School for 5 years and is involved in many community organisations. He has worked in Insurance and has managed a number of part-time businesses. Mr House is a former Busselton Shire Councillor and an active sportsman.

Mr House was first elected to the Legislative Council in 1987, and served as a member of the Joint House Select Committee on Parole. He was subsequently re-elected in 1989 from the number one position on the Liberal Party team for the South West Region.

Mr House is a member of the Shadow Cabinet and has served as Shadow Minister for Youth, Lands, Conservation and Land Management, Regional Development and the South West.

3.7. **Hon John Halden**

Member for the South Metropolitan Region

Educated at Melville Primary School and Scotch College, Mr Halden completed a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Social Work at Curtin University.

Before entering Parliament, Mr Halden worked in various public service departments, including Corrective Services and Community Services where he worked in the Child Protection Unit and as a counsellor in the Family Law Courts.

In 1986 Mr Halden was elected to Parliament as the Member for North Metropolitan Province and in 1989 was elected as Member for South Metropolitan Region, where he lives.

In 1989 Mr Halden became a member of the Government Agencies Committee and was elected Chairman of the Joint Select Committee on Parole Review.

Mr Halden is a Parliamentary Secretary of State assisting the Minister for Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs.

3.8. **Hon George Cash**

Member for the North Metropolitan Region

Mr Cash was born in Perth and received his early education at Mount Lawley Primary School and Scotch College before attending the WA Institute of Technology (now Curtin University).

At 21, Mr Cash was the joint proprietor of a construction company involved in residential and commercial development. While with this company he also found time to obtain a Bachelor of Business degree in Secretarial Administration and an Associate Diploma in Valuation.

In 1977, he was appointed adviser to the Investment and Endowment Committee of the University of Western Australia.

Mr Cash's parliamentary career began in 1984 when he won a by-election for the State seat of Mount Lawley. He was re-elected in 1986.

When a redistribution of electoral boundaries resulted in the abolition of the Mount Lawley seat, Mr Cash won endorsement as the leader of the Liberal team for the North Metropolitan Region in the Legislative Council.

Within a week of the 1989 State election he had been elected as the Leader of the Opposition in that House.

Mr Cash became a member of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies in 1992.

Mr Cash has also held the shadow portfolios of Police and Emergency Services, Corrective Services, Fisheries, Transport and Sport and Recreation.

3.9. Hon Doug Wenn

Member for the South West Region

Mr Wenn was educated at Carey Park Primary School and Bunbury Senior High School. He completed a course at Leederville Technical College and qualified as a Painter and Decorator.

Mr Wenn subsequently worked as a painter and decorator, he later joined Telecom. Over his working life Mr Wenn has had a variety of jobs including owning and running taxis and various take-away food outlets.

Mr Wenn entered Parliament in 1986 as Member for the South West Region. During his Parliamentary career, Mr Wenn has been a member of the Select Committee on Charitable Collections and the Select Committee on Agricultural Salinity, and became a member of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies in 1989.

Mr Wenn is also Deputy Whip in the Legislative Council and Deputy Chairman of Committees.

STAFF

3.10. Since February 1991, the Committee has a staff of two who also provide assistance to the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations –

- . Mr Phil Knight – Advisory/Research Officer
- . Mrs Margaret Liveris – Clerk to the Committee

PROCEDURE

3.11. Unless the Committee decides otherwise, all its meetings are open to members of the public and representatives of the media. The Committee met on 20 occasions during 1992 for an average of 1½ hours each meeting. The attendance of members at meetings was as follows:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Meetings</u>
Hon Norman Moore	20
Hon Tom Stephens	15
Hon Barry House	19
Hon John Halden	16
Hon Doug Wenn	18
Hon George Cash	19

3.12. Information concerning the Committee's schedule for meetings is available from the Committee Clerk.

- 3.13. Any member of the Legislative Council may participate in a public meeting of the Committee and question witnesses, unless the Committee decides otherwise. Only Committee members may, however, vote during Committee deliberations.
- 3.14. The Committee is empowered to summons persons to attend and give evidence before the Committee, and to require the production of papers and records.
- 3.15. The Committee is also empowered to take evidence on oath or affirmation. The Committee has never exercised this power. Witnesses are, however, advised of sections 57 and 59 of the Criminal Code 1913 which (respectively) provide that it is a crime to knowingly give false answers to questions asked before a parliamentary committee and that it is a misdemeanour to refuse to answer any lawful and relevant question asked before a parliamentary committee.

PART 4: MAJOR PROJECTS OF 1992

4.1. Review of the South West Development Authority (SWDA)

As foreshadowed in the Committee's "Review of Operations for 1991", the Report on SWDA was completed this year and tabled in April 1992 as Report 29.

4.2. The Establishment, Role and Scrutiny of Government Agencies

The Committee continued its ongoing inquiry into the "Establishment, Role and Scrutiny of Government Agencies". As stated in "The Review of Operations for 1991" (Report 31), the first stage of this project was the engagement of the Graduate School of Management (GSM) of the University of Western Australia to conduct on behalf of the Committee, a comprehensive survey of all relevant government agencies covered by the Committee's terms of reference. The final report of GSM was included as Appendix 1 to the Committee's Interim Report No. 2 - (Survey of Government Agencies - Report 30) which was tabled June 1992.

From the outset, the Committee determined that, as part of its review, other jurisdictions should be examined. For this purpose the Committee visited Canberra, Melbourne, Wellington, Sacramento, Toronto, Ottawa and Washington DC. A detailed report on this trip - Interim Report Number 3 - (Report 32) was tabled October 1992.

4.3. Review of the Perth Market Authority (PMA)

Following initial inquiries into the operations of the Perth Market Authority and a visit to the Canning Vale Market by Mr Montgomery and Mr House, the Committee resolved to conduct an inquiry into the operations of the Authority. This involved the Committee visiting the Markets and meeting with the members of the Authority's Board, industry representatives and the Minister for Agriculture. As indicated in its Preliminary Report (Report 33) tabled December 1992, the Committee determined to seek submissions from appropriately qualified consultants to conduct an investigation, within the criteria set out in Standing Order 310(a), into the activities of the Authority with a report to be presented to the Committee on or before March 1 1993. Tenders were called in December 1992 and Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu were subsequently commissioned.

4.4. Government Tendering Process

As a result of its inquiry into the SWDA, the Committee has decided to review the tendering processes adopted by government agencies. Initial inquiries have been made and the Committee hopes to complete its review in 1993.

4.5. Reports Tabled in the House

Five Reports by the Committee were tabled in the House during 1992 –

- Report 29 "South West Development Authority (SWDA)": April 1992.
- Report 30 "The Establishment, Role and Scrutiny of Government Agencies – Interim Report No. 2 – (Survey of Government Agencies)": June 1992.
- Report 31 "Review of Operations for 1991": August 1992.
- Report 32 "The Establishment, Role and Scrutiny of Government Agencies – Interim Report No. 3 – The Identification and Parliamentary Oversight of Government Agencies": October 1992.
- Report 33 "Perth Market Authority – Preliminary Report": December 1992.

PART 5: FINANCE

- 5.1. The operations of the Committee are funded entirely out of the budget allocation for the Legislative Council. The primary expenses generated by the Committee's operations are staff salaries, advertising, the costs of producing and publishing reports, and travel costs. Members of the Committee (including the Chairman) receive no remuneration over and above their normal parliamentary salaries for their service on the Committee. All expenditure requires the approval of the Clerk of the Legislative Council.
- 5.2. In the 1989 Annual Report, it was proposed that future Annual Reports of the Committee would provide a detailed statement of payments/expenditure for the year. The following proposed budget was submitted (via the panel of Chairmen of the Standing Committees) for inclusion in the overall Legislative Council budget for 1992/93 -

PROJECTED BUDGET 1992/93

1. INQUIRIES

(i) Major Inquiry - Establishment and Scrutiny of Government Agencies

Follow-up/future consultancies	\$10,000.00
Advertising/publicity	\$2,500.00
Revised Second Report	\$2,500.00

Note: This assumes the proposed overseas travel component (@ \$80,000) is used during 1991/92

SUB TOTAL \$15,000.00

(ii) One Additional "Major" Inquiry

Probable investigation, involving payment of fares for witnesses etc. and possible travel by Committee	\$10,000.00
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SUB TOTAL \$10,000.00

(iii) One "Minor" Inquiry

Meetings and possible further investigation	\$5,000.00
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SUB TOTAL \$5,000.00

ITEM TOTAL \$30,000.00

2. GENERAL COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATION/EXPENDITURE

(i) Printing	\$3,500.00
(ii) Stationery	\$500.00
(iii) Postage - not including "Major Inquiry" etc	\$500.00
(iv) Advertisements - press	\$5,000.00
(v) Entertainment & refreshments	\$500.00

ITEM TOTAL \$10,000.00

TOTAL ESTIMATED BUDGET \$40,000.00

APPENDIX 1

Standing Committee on Government Agencies

Duties

310. (a) The duties of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies shall be as follows:
- (i) To make such examination as it deems necessary and to inquire into the purpose, finance, accountability, extent, nature, administrative control and methods of State Government agencies, including statutory corporations, primary produce boards, regulatory and quasi-judicial bodies, trustees of government agencies, advisory committees and local and regional bodies (excluding municipal authorities) that are the subject of legislation of the Western Australian Parliament, with the exception of those agencies listed in Schedule 1 to these Standing Orders.
 - (ii) To report to the House upon any matter concerning the government authorities referred to in paragraph (i) or any recommendations for abolition or amalgamation of them or any findings particularly in regard to the productivity, efficiency, economy, effectiveness, organisation, and circumstances connected with them to which the Standing Committee thinks the attention of the House should be directed.
 - (iii) To inquire into and report to the House upon any question in connection with government agencies which is referred to the Standing Committee by resolution of the House.
 - (iv) To inquire into and where necessary, report to the House when, in the view of the Standing Committee, any agency duplicates all or part of the work of another.
 - (v) To recommend as it deems necessary the application of the "Sunset" principle to any government agency. The "Sunset" principle is defined as a process whereby a government agency's existence is automatically terminated after a certain period unless specific reauthorising legislation is enacted.

Quorum

311. (a) Unless otherwise ordered, the Standing Committee shall consist of six members.
- (b) A majority of its members constitutes a quorum of the Standing Committee.

Committee members to have access to committee documents

312. All members of the Standing Committee shall have access to Committee records, files and materials.

No committee evidence to be disclosed without consent of committee unless obtained from public sessions

313. Other than information available from public sessions of the Committee no information obtained through the Committee may be released without the consent of the Committee and any disclosure will be a breach of Parliamentary Privilege.

Power to appoint sub-committees, Membership, Duties and Quorum

314. The Standing Committee shall have power to appoint sub-committees consisting of three members of the Committee, and to refer to any such sub-committee any of the matters which the Committee is empowered to consider. The quorum of a sub-committee shall be two members.

Sub-committees are subject to the authority and direction of committee

315. Each sub-committee of the Standing Committee is part of the Committee, and is subject to the authority and direction of the Committee and to its rules so far as applicable.

Chairman

316. The Standing Committee shall elect one of its members as Chairman. In the event of an equality of votes the Council shall appoint the Chairman.

Deputy Chairman

317. The Standing Committee may from time to time appoint a member of the Committee to be Deputy-Chairman and the member so appointed shall act as Chairman of the Committee at any time when there is no Chairman or the Chairman is not present at a meeting of the Committee.

Chairman to have deliberative vote except where votes equal

318. The Chairman, or the Deputy-Chairman when acting as Chairman, shall have a deliberative vote, and in the event of an equality of voting shall also have a casting vote.

Council Member may participate in public session but shall not vote

319. A Member of the Council though not a member of the Standing Committee may participate in its public sessions and question witnesses, unless the Committee orders otherwise, but shall not vote.

A reference to committee by Council to be on motion after notice and motion to take precedence

320. (a) The reference of a matter by the Council to the Standing Committee shall be on Motion after Notice.
(b) Any such Motion shall take precedence of Government and Private Business set down for that day.

Committee not to inquire into matter for which another committee has been established, Council to determine questions concerning

321. The Standing Committee shall not inquire into any matters which are being examined by a Select Committee of either House of Parliament or a Joint Committee specially appointed to inquire into such matters and any questions arising in connection therewith may be referred to the Council for determination.

Powers of committee

322. The Standing Committee shall have power to send for and examine persons, papers and records, to commission reports and performance audits whenever it may be necessary and to meet and transact business in public or private session and notwithstanding any prorogation of the Parliament.

Witness to provide written statement of evidence prior to appearance

323. The Standing Committee shall, in so far as is practicable, require each witness who is to appear before it to file with the Committee (in advance of his or her appearance) a written statement of the proposed testimony and to limit the oral presentation at such appearance to a brief summary of his or her declarations.

Committee to consider application by witness to be heard in private; No private evidence to be released without consent of Committee

324. The Standing Committee shall consider applications by witnesses to be heard in private session and no evidence or testimony taken in private session may be released without the consent of the Committee.

All committee documents to remain in custody of Council after completion of inquiry

325. Unless otherwise ordered by the Council, all records and all documents received by the Standing Committee during its inquiry shall remain in the custody of the Council after the completion of the Committee's inquiry.

Committee may sit during adjournment or suspension of Council but not during sittings unless by order; May adjourn from time to time and move from place to place

326. The Standing Committee may sit during any adjournment or suspension of the Council and may adjourn from time to time and move from place to place.

The Standing Committee may not sit during sittings of the Council unless by order of the Council.

Committee can operate without full membership

327. The Standing Committee may proceed to the despatch of business notwithstanding that all members have not been appointed and notwithstanding any vacancy.

Public and media may attend and report public sessions unless otherwise ordered

328. Members of the public and representatives of the news media may attend and report any public session of the Standing Committee unless the Committee otherwise orders.

Committee may print papers and evidence; Daily *Hansard* to be produced of public proceedings

329. The Standing Committee shall be empowered to print from day to day such papers and evidence as may be ordered by it. A daily *Hansard* shall be published of such proceedings of the Committee as take place in public.

Staff and resources

330. The Standing Committee shall, subject to the approval of the President, be provided with all necessary staff, facilities and resources.

Power to appoint specialist, temporary or part-time staff

331. In order to obtain such services, facilities, studies and reports as will best assist it to carry out its functions, the Standing Committee shall, subject to the approval of the President, be empowered to appoint persons with specialist knowledge on a temporary or part-time basis, for the purpose of particular inquiries.

Progress reports

332. The Standing Committee shall have leave to report from time to time its proceedings and evidence taken and such recommendations as it may deem fit, and may make reports as to the progress of the proceedings of the Committee.

Reports to be presented by Chairman; minority report may be added

333. The reports of the Standing Committee shall be presented to the Council by the Chairman. A Minority Report may be added to any Report.

Measure or matter reported to be introduced by Chairman by motion

334. A measure or matter to be reported by the Standing Committee to the House shall be introduced by the Chairman by motion in the House.

Committee has continuous existence unless terminated

335. The Standing Committee has continuous existence until such time as its existence is terminated and its successor is appointed by resolution adopted by the Council.

Committee to publish list of agencies

336. The Standing Committee shall publish a list of all agencies within its jurisdiction.

Except where inconsistent procedures of committee to be the same as other standing committees

337. Except where inconsistent with the foregoing provisions of these Standing Orders or as otherwise ordered by the Council, the procedures of this Standing Committee shall be the same as that for Standing Committees excluding Standing Order 304.

SCHEDULE 1**(a) LIST OF THE STATUTORY AGENCIES EXCLUDED FROM THE STANDING COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION -**

Auditor General's Department
 Commissioner for Consumer Affairs
 Community Welfare Department
 Conservation and Environment, Department of
 Corporate Affairs Commissioner
 Education Department
 Electoral Department
 Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of
 Forests Department
 Health and Medical Services
 Industrial Registrar
 Lands and Surveys, Department of
 Land Titles Office
 Mental Health Services
 Mines Department
 Public Trustee
 Public Works Department
 Registrar of Building Societies
 Registrar of Friendly Societies
 Registrar General
 Registrar of Trade Associations
 Rural and Industries Bank
 Solicitor-General
 Town Planning Department
 Transport, Director-General of

(b) LIST OF DEPARTMENTS WITHOUT STATUTORY BASE WHICH ARE OUTSIDE THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION

Agriculture, Department of
 Astronomical Services
 Chief Secretary's Department
 Corrections, Department of
 Crown Law, Department of
 Government Printer
 Government Stores
 Harbour and Light, Department of
 Immigration Office
 Industrial Development and Commerce, Department of
 Labour and Industry, Department of
 Local Government, Department of
 Police Department
 Premier's Department
 Regional Administration and the North West, Office of
 Resource Development, Department of
 State Taxation Department
 Tourism, Department of
 Treasury, Department of



