



PARLIAMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**FOURTH REPORT**

**OF THE**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES  
AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS**

**IN RELATION TO THE**

**1992-93 BUDGET ESTIMATES**

**Presented by the Hon Max Evans (Chairman)**

**4**  
**NOVEMBER 1992**

**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 Revenue 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 Max Evans (Chairman)
- . Hon Sam Piantadosi
- . Hon Bob Thomas
- . Hon Muriel Patterson
- . Hon Murray Montgomery

**Staff of the Committee:**

- . Mr Phil Knight (Advisory/Research Officer)
- . Mr Mark Hilditch (Clerk)

**Previous Reports of the Committee:**

- . First Report 1990-91 Budget Estimates: November 1990
- . Second Report 1991-92 Budget Estimates: November 1991
- . Third Report Leasing of Computer Equipment for the Legislative Council:  
February 1992

**Address:**

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**Legislative Council**

**Report**

**of the**

**Standing Committee**

**on**

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## **APPENDIX**

## **PART 1**

### **PROCEDURE ADOPTED FOR THE HEARINGS**

The Committee reviewed the Report of the "1991-92 Budget Estimates", tabled in the House in November last year particularly the comments made in the section titled "Part 4, General Comments, Observations and Recommendations". Consequently, the following format and procedures were adopted -

- (i) A Schedule was developed from a "selective" list of departments and agencies that included most with estimated budget expenditure for 1992/93 in excess of \$30m. The final Schedule was circulated to all Members of the Legislative Council for comments and feedback prior to final endorsement by the Committee.
- (ii) The Committee met as a "whole" rather than divide into 3 subcommittees as occurred previously, to enable the Committee members to hear and consider each of the departments and agencies.
- (iii) The chamber of the House was the venue, primarily to encourage all Members to participate and also because little additional organisation was required in regard to Hansard etc.
- (iv) One full sitting week (Monday to Friday October 12-16) was set aside to enable sufficient time to hear all the departments and agencies.
- (v) The unaudited financial statements for 1991/92 (as required to be provided to the Office of the Auditor General) were requested from all departments and agencies. This was considered of major importance as it allowed a more direct comparison to be made from one year to the next of the estimated items of expenditure.
- (vi) Advertisements, calling for submissions from members of the public appeared in the local press on several occasions and more importantly in the magazines and newsletters of the Ministry of Education, Health Department, Police Department and the Government Gazette.
- (vii) The respective Ministers were encouraged to allow the departmental representatives to answer directly, questions relating to operational and financial matters and for the Minister to answer specific questions on policy.
- (viii) As occurred in previous estimates' hearings, questions would be taken on notice where more information or additional clarification was required.

Note: It was subsequently agreed by the Committee that responses to Questions on Notice were required to be provided to the Advisory/Research Officer within 48 hours. This was the same time frame adopted by the Estimates Committee in the Legislative Assembly.

## **PART 2**

### **GENERAL COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS**

Overall the Committee considered that the procedures adopted for the hearings were successful and enabled worthwhile debate. Feedback from other members of the Legislative Council has also been positive.

The following brief comments and observations are included for consideration next year -

- (1) The Chief Executive Officers (CEO's) and departmental representatives generally appreciate the forum of the estimates' hearings and the opportunity it provides in terms of feedback and liaison with members of Parliament. In fact, a number of CEO's expressed concern at not appearing before the Committee.
- (2) The use of the chamber of the House and the Committee setting as a "whole" was successful and enabled Members the opportunity to participate in a familiar environment. However, the sound system (amplification) in the House was of concern.
- (3) The single venue enabled Hansard to provide the "uncorrected transcript" of daily proceedings to Members quickly and the co-operation and commitment of all Hansard staff was certainly appreciated.
- (4) The Committee resolved that responses to all questions taken on notice were to be provided with 48 hours - the same time frame used by the Legislative Assembly.
- (5) The four day program worked well, although two additional days may be necessary next year to enable those departments and agencies not reviewed to be included.
- (6) The debate was certainly enhanced with access to the unaudited financial statements for all departments and agencies and this will be a requirement for all future estimates' hearings.
- (7) Further to (6) above, next year, the CEO's of the departments and agencies reviewed will be required to provide explanations in respect to the qualified audit report for the financial year 1991/92, as reported in the First and Second General Reports by the Office of the Auditor General.
- (8) The general lack of public response to the advertisements that were placed on several occasions in the local newspapers and the major departmental newsletters and bulletins was disappointing. This aspect of "public profile" will be addressed next year.
- (9) The three Ministers allowed the departmental representatives to answer all questions on operational matters. This was appreciated by the Committee.
- (10) The selected Schedule enabled Members to provide feedback as to the departments and agencies that should be interviewed. Accordingly, the overall standard of questions was better than in previous years, as was the overall level of participation.

## **PART 3**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) The Committee was concerned that a number of the Chief Executive Officers (CEO's) did not attend the estimates' hearings. Included in this category were the Police Department, WA Electoral Commission, the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority and several others.

The Committee is cognisant of the responsibilities of senior officers but recommends that in future all CEO's (as well as relevant departmental staff) attend. To ensure this occurs, the draft Schedule for next year will be circulated at least two months prior to the anticipated date of the hearings.

- (2) The quality of this year's hearings was certainly enhanced with the provision of the unaudited financial statements, required by all departments and agencies to be provided to the Office of the Auditor General. For next year, the Committee recommends that all CEO's provide a copy of the qualified audit report from the Auditor General for the 1991/92 financial year.
- (3) The Committee is keen to hear more departments and agencies and accordingly the four day format may need to be extended by an extra two days.
- (4) To enable the time frame for the responses to Questions taken on Notice to be "speeded up", the Committee resolved after this year's hearings had commenced that 48 hours was appropriate. The Legislative Assembly used this same time frame for their estimates debates. It is recommended that the 48 hours for responses to Questions of Notice be formally adopted for all future estimates' hearings.
- (5) It is recommended that the final complete Hansard transcript (incorporating responses to Questions on Notice) of the overall estimates' debates be completed within three weeks of the final sitting day of the hearings.
- (6) In regard to the Legislative Council, it is recommended that the Chairmen of the Standing Committees be involved in the preparation of the final budget.
- (7) Further consideration should be given to the introduction of a system similar to that already in place in other Parliaments, whereby a budget prepared by officers of the House is presented to a "parliamentary commission" for approval and then provided to the Treasurer.

## **PART 4**

### **DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES REVIEWED - GENERAL COMMENTS**

Over the course of the 4 day program the Committee met with 48 separate departments and agencies and brief comments of the major issues and subjects raised are outlined below. For further information refer to Hansard.

#### **MONDAY OCTOBER 12, 1992**

##### **Building Management Authority**

- Voluntary severance scheme resulted in reduction of 77 FTEs.
- No change with building maintenance - cleaning and gardening has changed.
- Programming, management and technical advisory services program - advice on new public buildings meets client/agent requirements.
- Unrecouped expenditure relating to the Treasurer's Advance Account - works and sales balance outstanding of \$698,000.
- Contribution to public building insurance increased from \$500,000 to \$2 million.
- Building and contract manager for the building of the Busport.
- Productivity improvement program has been progressed.
- Budgeting on 10 per cent above the market rate for buildings carried out by BMA staff and not contracted outside.

##### **Office of Women's Interests**

- Services and contracts expenditure is significantly above the previous year.
- Expenditure on International Women's Day events.
- Expenditure by the Western Australian Women's Trust.
- Rent paid by the Office is \$300,000.
- Introduction of Women's Plans.
- All 21 staff of OWI are women.
- Development and maintenance of a Women's Register will be 0.5 of FTE.



### **Office of Multicultural Interests**

- Small policy unit provides advice on the needs of migrant women in W.A.
- Ministerial Advisory Council - link between the Government and the community.
- Increase in expenditure for services and contracts from \$79,000 to \$151,000.
- Number of FTEs remains unchanged, increase in provision for salaries by \$34,000 and other staffing costs have doubled from \$13,000 to \$27,000.
- Planned achievements regarding the support of social history projects.
- Allocation of \$66,000 for rent.
- Reduction from \$131,000 to an estimate of \$82,000 in grant subsidies and transfer payments.
- Transfer of some functions to the Social Advantage Package.
- Role of the new Department for Community Development.
- Comparison of the W.A. office with the equivalent offices in other states.

### **Western Australian Museum**

- Admittances have increased from 108,000 to 209,000.
- Difference between Museum funds and Trustee funds.
- Responsibility for aboriginal sites and the proposed changes.
- Sale of the Percy Markham collection - \$150,000 is in dispute.
- Addressing the needs of community and local museums throughout the State.
- Plans for use of the vacated Swan Barracks.
- Future capital outlays for regional museums.
- Proposal for the creation of an independent State Maritime Museum.
- Current liabilities amount of \$232,000 for unearned income.
- Funds for minor works program.
- Possible assistance for an aboriginal museum for artefacts and arts.
- Minor works budget is less than \$25,000.

### **Art Gallery of Western Australia**

- Provision for annual leave has risen from \$8,000 to \$199,000.
- Bookshop Trading statement shows a difference of \$50,000 between the closing stock for 1991/92 (\$178,000) and the 1992/93 opening stock figure of \$129,000.
- Increased sum of \$650,000 to the acquisitions budget.
- Depreciation of the building, provision for annual and long service leave repayments.
- Trading and cost of sales - the source of the \$791,000.
- \$1.285 million set aside for major works in the Capital Works Program.
- Maintenance of assets amounts to approximately \$310,000 for the year.
- Status and intention of the Louis Allen collection.
- Increase in Board Members' fees from \$609 in 1990/91 to \$4,906 in 1991/92.
- Revenue from the "Secret Treasures of Russia".

### **Arts & Performing Arts**

- Budget has increased by 6.04% - mostly for the funding of artists and activities.
- Increase in funding to the State Theatre Company, the West Australian Opera Company and the Chrissie Parrot Dance Collective.
- Increase in the Lotteries Commission grant - \$1.25 million dollars to the Festival of Perth.
- Closing balance of receipts under the Arts Lotteries Account for 1991 was \$468,517.
- State Theatre Company - shortfall in funds made up from the art form support and development fund.
- Lotteries Commission funding expected to be \$6 million in 1992/93.
- Utilisation of the voluntary redundancy program.
- Approximately \$800,000 is allocated to arts activities in regional areas.
- Portfolio coordination has increased substantially from \$57,000 to \$176,000.
- Increase in FTEs from 6 to 9 and contingencies from \$346,000 to \$478,000.

### **Performing Arts**

- Increase of \$70,000 for library and equipment to restore acquisitions on campus.
- Received a 3.8% increase in funding for 1992/93.
- Coordinators of the community music program have been transferred to Port Hedland and Kalgoorlie.
- Funding is a concern regarding the proposal for a conservatorium high school.
- Corporate and private sponsorship raised in excess of \$150,000 during 1991/92.
- Friends of the Academy raised funds to support students.
- Difference in arrangements for performing arts between the Academy and UWA.

### **Perth Theatre Trust**

- Increased budget of 5.98% for 1992/93.
- "42nd Street" brought in approximately \$70 million (as a multiplier effect) in salaries and other expenditure - exact outcome is not yet known.
- Reduction in FTE's in the BOCS Ticketing and Information Service, but the service is expanding.
- Addressed the concerns of the Auditor General in regard to the FAAA.
- Estimated loss in revenue from taverns and bars - from a profit of \$101,000 to a \$150,000 loss in 1992/93.

### **Heritage Council**

- Valuer General valued the Swan Brewery at a nil value.
- Bulk of the income - \$650,000 - is from the National Estate grants program.
- Expenditure for conservation is approximately \$718,000.
- Increase in expenditure from \$54,000 to \$114,000 in the heritage information and promotion subprogram.
- Issued an NEGP grant to the National Trust to undertake a railway study.
- Fees paid to Council members will be \$61,571 in a full year - Chairman is paid \$30,000 per year for 1 to 2 days work per week.
- Carrying out educational programs to ensure that municipalities prepare their municipal inventories.
- Balance of concessional loan scheme (\$87, 416) transferred to the Council.

### **Great Southern Development Authority**

- Major variation between the figures for 1991/92 and 1992/93 regarding the expenditure on services and contracts.
- Increase in salary and wages due to the transfer to the Authority of the Chairman.
- Six sites are being evaluated in the wool scouring plant study.
- Timber 2002 group was established as an export program.
- Support for tourism industry through the encouragement of special events.
- Consultants will report on the Meat Works study by the middle of November 1992.
- Encouragement for the development of regular coach line service in the south-west.
- Total gross expenditure for services and contracts is \$683,000 for 1992/93.
- Study costing \$150,000 (through the Wool Foundation) has been allocated to the Tambellup Wool Foundation.

## **TUESDAY OCTOBER 13, 1992**

### **Police Department**

- \$235,000 spent on the purchase of a hangar at Jandakot Airport.
- \$1.2m was used to purchase the new helicopter from the insurance payment.
- Corporate services increased by around a third in both salaries and contingencies.
- Police/aboriginal summit working party established in February 1992.
- Working party has been established to implement the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.
- Transfer of police officers as a result of mid-year budget cuts caused a saving of around \$280,000.
- Motor vehicle purchases funded from General Loan and Capital Works funds.
- Allocation for police rangers is in the vicinity of \$2,000-\$3,000.
- Money raised from the latest series of Eagles plates will go to community policing.
- Staff in country police stations operate on a work demand basis.
- Allocation of \$96,500 for the Balgo Hills project.
- Approved strength of the police force (police officers) is 4,068.
- Traffic Board Road Trauma Trust Fund raised \$1.7m, but only spent \$503,000.
- Total cost of the conversion program from VHF to UHF of police radio communications is \$4.570m - proposed expenditure for 1992-93 is \$2.248m.

### **Police Licensing and Services**

- Separate entity from the Police Department - officers are civilian.
- Holders of Eastern States licences have 12 months in which to drive on that licence.
- Commission paid to the SGIC for Third Party Insurance is 1.5%.
- Revenue from vehicle drivers and licence fees is approximately \$21m and the cost of salaries is \$16.4m.
- \$170,000 will be spent on 'certain works'.
- Last year, \$172,000 was set aside for capital works - only \$5,000 was spent.
- Planned initiative is for greater driver competency through driver training courses.

- Maintenance of assets for 1992/93 will increase by \$7,000 to \$92,000.

### **Agriculture Department**

- Restructuring of the Department has not affected expenditure or the allocation of resources to regional offices.
- Range conditions and resource surveys in the West Kimberley and Murchison are being done within existing resources.
- Experienced staff are being lost to the private sector.
- Voluntary severance offer was made to 88 staff members and 78 accepted.
- Gross value of agricultural production from the Ord River area was around \$33m last year.
- Total allocation to agriculture is \$6.5m less than last year.
- Flock reduction scheme - increase in slaughtering of sheep and lambs (two million head).
- Research has only been marginally affected by staff reductions.
- Involvement in the beef industry in the South West.
- Sheep lice eradication program and footrot control - reduction in staff.
- Interest earned in the trust fund accounts - 2 grants held in trust.
- Allocation of \$200,000 for the acquisition of land at Albany.

### **Agriculture Protection Board**

- Budget has been reduced by \$251,000
- Feral goat eradication program received a special allocation of \$100,000.
- Number of both live and carcass goats exported has been around 200,000.
- Scope for domestic rabbits to be commercially marketed.
- Six percent increase in 'research' is largely due to payment of Government redundancies of research employees.
- Review of the co-operation and 'over-lap' between the Department of Agriculture, the APB and the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service.
- APB and CALM are jointly responsible for the eradication of arum lilies and blackberries.
- Starlings have been virtually eradicated between Bremer Bay and Esperance.

- Goat Industry Development Unit's role is to identify markets for goats.
- Commercial rabbit hunters were operating on the Nullarbor earlier this year.

### **Rural Adjustment and Finance Corporation of Western Australia**

- No applications were received for loans of up to \$20,000 for farmers to complete a normal cropping program under a special State crop planting scheme.
- Surplus of \$11.6m for the Rural Adjustment Scheme.
- Funding arrangements between the Commonwealth and the States - allocation to WA is 13% of the total allocation.
- No provision to provide assistance to non-farm small rural businesses.
- Commercial rates to farmers have come down.
- Fees and salaries paid to Board members was \$85,000.
- Forecast for this year is a market indicator price on wool of 615 cents.
- Assistance under the re-establishment grant for farmers to leave the industry will increase from around \$34,000 to \$45,000.
- Doubtful debts - substantial difference between this year's and last years provision.
- Rural Adjustment Scheme is under review by the Commonwealth - new scheme will be implemented on 1 January 1993.
- Write-off procedures for bad debts are in accord with the provisions of the FAAA.
- Trust Fund account of \$55m at the Treasury.

### **Fisheries Department**

- Reduction in FTEs to 169 with salary expenditure of around \$6.24m.
- Motor vehicles are now funded from the General Loan and Capital Works Fund.
- Department will receive specific amounts of money from licence fees.
- Consultant has provided a report on the salmon buy-back scheme study.
- Fisheries research and development fund received \$2.25m from limited entry fishery licenses.
- Funds are set aside for various buy-back schemes to reduce the number of commercial fishing licences.
- Voluntary redundancy payments totalled \$277,000.
- Management policy will restrict shark fishing in Shark Bay from 1 January 1993.

- 28 licences issued for the Mandurah estuarine fishery.
- Studies of tropical crayfish in the north of the State are being conducted.

#### **Western Australian Meat Commission**

- 30% reduction in the number of sheep, lambs and goats slaughtered this year.
- Export of sheep meat to the EEC is limited by quota to 17,500 tonnes per year.
- Estimated cost of slaughtering at Robb Jetty is in excess of other saleyards - planning to replace the abattoir (interior of the beef floor was burnt out in January).
- FTEs reflect improved manning particularly in the slaughtering section.
- Salary component has increased by around \$100,000, yet the number of FTEs has decreased by 38 on last year's figure.
- Current "lease" of the Midland saleyard expires in June 1993.
- Commission is a substantial provider of training in the abattoir trade for slaughtermen, but not boners and slicers.
- Price set by Robb Jetty is used as a guide by local slaughtering establishments when setting slaughtering fees.
- Airfreight market (primarily to the Gulf and Middle East) is important.

#### **Department of Marine and Harbours**

- FTEs were reduced from 312 to 307 during the past year.
- Funds for vehicle replacement are from the General Loan and Capital Works Fund - \$901,000 will be spent on the cost for motor vehicles compared to \$519,000 in 1991/92.
- Department is in the process of amalgamating with the Department of Transport.
- Department is responsible for the overall administration of the Dawesville Channel construction (\$58m project).
- \$60,000-\$80,000 or over is considered major works - work below \$50,000 is regarded as minor.
- Independent consultant is reviewing the corporate services of both Departments.
- Allocation of \$7,000 for a feasibility study for fascine investigations at Carnarvon.
- \$95,000 has been budgeted for dredging at Kalbarri.
- \$49,000 has been allocated to the coastal management and Esperance North beach stabilisation task.



- \$300,000 is allocated for fire equipment at the Wyndham port.
- Harbour management and development in Bunbury - marine pens and public launching facilities - is funded by around \$32m under the better cities program.
- Allocation of \$250,000 for the power supply to the boat harbour in Carnarvon.
- Estimated cost of \$150,000 to replace the Coode Street Jetty - half will be funded by the City of South Perth.

#### **Western Australian Coastal Shipping Commission (Stateships)**

- Fleet currently consists of 4 vessels.
- Loss in 1992 was \$13,573,552 - an increase of \$3m on the previous year.
- Joint venture stevedoring service with National Terminals of Australia Ltd was terminated successfully to mutual advantage - \$772,000 profit.
- Efficiency of the two ship, nine day service to the North West has brought down road transport costs by as much as \$40 a tonne.
- Commodities shipped from Fremantle to mainland Kimberley destinations increased by 32 percent over the quantity shipped the previous year.
- With \$15.38m for freight earnings and vessel expenditure of \$15.1m gross profit on the ships is only \$247,000.
- Services provided through the operation of ships at a cost - comparable to the way Transperth provides services at a cost.
- Restructuring arrangements on the waterfront at both Broome and Wyndham and the integration of those work forces will reflect a changed cost structure.
- \$4.5m (out of a total of \$16.3m) represents revenue derived for freight shipped to WA coastal ports.
- Superannuation amounts to around 40 percent of salaries and is a major component of expenditure (relating to past activities).
- Port authorities provide pilots for ships to berth and unberth in various WA ports.

#### **Department of Transport**

- Department is one of 15 different transport agencies in WA.
- Finances in part, come from its own source of revenue and, in part from the Transport Trust Fund, with the remainder from CRF.
- Formula has applied since the introduction of the Transport Trust Fund - this year \$5.1m is allocated for the Department, \$43.5m for Transperth and \$84m for MRD.
- Superannuation Reserve Account has been set up for a large number of years.

- Terms of reference for the study relating to the second aviation airport within Perth have just been determined.
- The study of the review of the policy applying to Skywest will occur this year.
- Regional ports and the Fremantle Port Authority make recommendations about the pricing in their ports to establish a rate of return.
- Participation in the National Rail Corporation - no financial cost to the State.
- The land bridging proposal is being pursued with the Fremantle Port Authority and Westrail.
- Department will review interaction between the Ministry of Education contracted school bus services and public bus services in Albany and Esperance.
- Allocation to the bicycle policy special project trust fund was \$673,000 last year - used to fund the Bikewest Policy Group.
- Consultants' study into trade prospects for the port of Albany is being carried out.

#### **Western Australian Government Railways Commission**

- Major changes are - much more deregulation of railways, the advent of the National Rail Corporation, the electrification program of the Transperth system and the movement towards a better business structure.
- Intention to corporatise Westrail will bring about changes to the 'archaic' Government Railways Act.
- Annual grain harvest is the major agricultural producer of revenue for Westrail.
- *Prospector's* re-engining completed by December - part of a total \$9m program.
- Ticketing arrangements for the *Australind* have changed with the adoption of a system called TRAINS.
- *Indian Pacific* will be controlled under single management by Australian National Railways.
- Commission carries forward a certain debt - called a commercial result - on the basis of a notional one to one debt to equity ratio.
- Negotiations with Western Mining Corporation resulted in increased volumes of nickel being transported at a lower freight rate.
- Drawdown on CRF will be \$6m this year.
- Increase from \$100,000 to \$250,000 in the Western Quarries dividend compared with the reduction from \$250,000 to nil in the Total West dividend.
- National Rail Corporation will take over some rolling stock and track - Commission will keep adequate resources for the remaining standard gauge services.

- Midland workshops have been scaled down - FTEs in 1991/92 were 1,060 and this year will be reduced to 890. With reorganisation, the workshops will serve both Westrail and the NRC.
- Twelve new coaches have been added to the road coach fleet operating on the Geraldton and Albany runs.
- Policies for all freight services are being reshaped in order to compete effectively with road transport.
- \$9.3m has been set aside for operational leases, being rail cars for the northern suburbs railway.
- Increase in capital works allocation from \$115m last year to \$171m this year, relates to the major expenditure on the northern suburbs railway.
- Maintenance is a significant part of the total expenditure of the Commission.
- Debt capital has increased from \$19m in 1991/92 to \$72.973m in 1992/93, as a result of borrowings required for the capital works program.
- *Indian Pacific* will receive a \$12m capital injection from the Federal Government for refurbishment.

#### **Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust**

- Major infrastructure initiatives - the electrification of the Midland, Armadale and Fremantle lines; the building of the Kwinana Freeway express bus lane; the construction of the Busport; and the present construction of the rail-based northern suburbs rapid transport system to which bus services will feed.
- Whole system of bus operations has changed from a centralised approach to a decentralised support system.
- Social welfare concessions for buses is \$35,401,000, and for rail is \$37,342,000 - fare concessions for children and scholars is \$1,858,000.
- Five income streams - fares, fare concessions, social welfare, contributions from the Transport Trust Fund and CRF.
- Increase of \$33m in consumables and contracts - Transperth's contract with Westrail for the provision of the suburban rail service.
- Transperth has responsibility for all capital charges for the suburban train system.
- Fare evasion on the rail system is estimated at less than half of 1%.
- New ticket machines have been ordered to replace the aged existing ticketing systems.
- Return of fares to Transperth amounts to approximately 27% - the figure is lower on trains, being around 14%, whilst buses are around 33%.
- Concessional fare recoup is around \$17.8m - payment received for providing a cheaper fare to sections of the community.

- Loss in revenue for the 'free transit zone' is around \$700,000 per year - the Perth City Council contributes \$200,000. Clipper service is funded by the Council.
- Westrail charges an additional \$8.024m for the writing down of superseded diesel rail car sets to their estimated net realisable value.
- Total cost of the Transperth Busport was \$39m - an ambit claim of \$14m was made by the contractor and of \$1.7m was finally accepted and paid.
- Target usage of the Busport set down in the consultants report, is for 20,000 passenger movements per day.
- Return fare from Joondalup to Perth will be subject to the zone fare system applicable to the metropolitan area.
- Significant decrease in the amount of theft from ticket vending machines from \$27,000 in 1990/91 to \$94 last.

## WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14 1992

### Health Department

- 3.5% increase CRF budget and a 38.1% increase in the Capital Works budget.
- 1993/94 budgetary cycle will be based on a resource allocation model and not on historical funding.
- Number of the incentive programs in the current Medicare agreement related to producing efficiencies.
- Services in Broome and the hospital redevelopment are presently being reviewed.
- Number of new initiatives were announced under the label of the productivity investment program - aimed at reducing waiting lists and waiting time for public patients. \$30m has been set aside to 'seek out' and reward innovations.
- Consultants, Deloitte Ross Tohmatsu provided recommendations that will lead to new structures and new organisation models.
- Outdoor advertising is being progressively eliminated under the provisions of the Tobacco Control Act funded through the Health Promotion Foundation.
- Expansion of the aboriginal environmental health worker program.
- Formal devolution of responsibility for the HACC Program was made on 1 July to each of the 10 main regions.
- PAT Scheme is using more air services and the amount allocated this year is similar to that of the previous year - \$6.6m.
- Bunbury Regional Hospital is about to commence its reconstruction program.
- Total debt servicing figure of the Department is \$43m in the CRF.
- Kalamunda District Community Hospital will function as a district health service.
- Total cost for the Swan District Hospital was \$18.9m.
- Expansion of screening mammography services with the creation of two new services - one in the north metropolitan region, the other in the central wheatbelt.
- Actual approved project cost for the Northam Hospital is \$14.8m.
- Creation of regional administrative offices will be cost neutral to the Health system.
- Hospital revenue (\$112m) from charges for private patients in public hospitals.
- 1991/92 the total cost for Royal Perth Hospital was \$207m and the in-patient fees for private care was only \$11.6m.
- Cost to keep a frail aged or disabled person in an institution is around \$25,000 and probably double that figure to maintain a person in their own home.

- Provided \$2.2m for the introduction of mental health teams in rural areas.
- Rural health policy unit was established in Geraldton to look at retaining medical practitioners in rural and remote parts of the State.
- Department has appointed Government employed doctors in some country towns.
- Department has launched a major public campaign regarding Ross River Virus.

### **Education Department**

- Budget for 1992/93 is \$1.46 billion, an increase of 5.4%.
- Department is in the second year of a \$75m maintenance program.
- Proposed 5 year old program accounts for 1.1% of the recurrent expenditure.
- Significant saving in the devolution of authority - in the Pilbara and Kimberley, energy savings for 6 months are around 20%.
- Reduction of 100 FTEs in the central office came from the non-teaching side.
- CEO's office - salary allocation is \$848,000 and contingency budget is \$537,000.
- Albany bus situation has been referred to an inter-departmental committee.
- 1992/93 there will be an increase of 372 teachers and other support staff - in a full year the cost will be \$8.5m.
- Retention rate to Year 12 is expected to be around 70% during 1992/93.
- 6 schools will have asbestos roofing replaced this year - total allocation is \$1.5m.
- Two payments regarding mesothelioma were made under the Workers' Compensation Act.
- 50 education support schools and centres and 164 education support units are available as part of the intellectual and physical disabilities program.
- Amended the *Education Act* regarding Auditor General's reference in 1989/90 to the inadequacies in the maintenance of bank accounts by schools containing school funds.
- Income is generated from the sale of redundant school assets.
- 231 schools were selected for the full-time program for five year old education.
- 20 additional FTEs and an increase of \$410,000 for off-campus programs have been allocated to combat truancy.
- Reduction of \$2.7m in the first half of 1992 on Commonwealth funded programs.
- Committees in Bunbury and Busselton/Margaret River are looking at the local needs in education from the pre-primary level to tertiary levels.

- LOTE is a high priority - developed a 10 year strategic plan for the introduction of languages in schools throughout the State.
- 'Foundations for the Future' document made a commitment of \$6m over 3 years to the literacy and numeracy program.
- 'Stepping Out' program is a professional development program for teachers.
- No allocation for Capital Works at the Yanchep District High School.
- \$35,000 has been provided for chaplaincy work at high schools.
- National curriculum is an undertaking that involves all States.
- Increased costs for head office rent and electricity to \$2.1m.
- Funding decision that maintenance be funded through the capital works program.
- 12 schools experienced delays in the commencement of works.
- Cost for the voluntary redundancy scheme was \$3.8m.
- Major works are part of the Capital Works program, whereas a minor program is normally a project up to \$200,000 eg. administration upgrades.

#### **Department of Employment, Vocational Education and Training**

- Department is a combination of TAFE and the Dept of Employment and Training.
- \$3.6m was spent on redundancy packages last year.
- New accommodation is being constructed opposite the Ministry of Education.
- Regional delivery strategy with not only campus-based facilities to deliver the agricultural programs, but also open learning delivery facilities.
- Responsibility for maintenance of existing buildings and the provision of new buildings.
- Specific proposal to develop and implement an open learning centre at Busselton.
- Upper limit of \$10,000 on urgent minor works comes from CRF.
- Allocation of around \$90,000 for motor vehicles.
- Formation of the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA).
- Significant reduction in FTEs from 211 in 1991/92 to 171 in 1992/93 as a result of the amalgamation of the two departments.
- Allocation of \$866,000 to the executive.

### **Office of Racing and Gaming**

- Granting of junket licences is by the Gaming Commission.
- Casino tax is fixed at 15% - an estimate of \$3 lm for next year.
- In 1992/93, a Bill will be introduced to corporatise the TAB - Office administers the legislation and any amendments that affect the TAB at present.
- Turnover relating to liquor licensing fees increased by \$2.5m last year and estimated increase of \$1.4m this year.
- Significant increase from \$396,000 to \$1.16m for services and contracts.
- Responsibility now for the payment of rent, security and cleaning services.
- Current rent for the Liquor Licensing Court is \$640,000.
- Administration of the Racecourse Development Trust is around \$11,000 a year.

### **Department of Sport and Recreation (Recreation Camps and Reserves Board)**

- Grants and subsidies paid to sport and recreation bodies include - final grant to the WACA (sports betting account); the Institute of Sport (for payroll tax); and the WAFL (receive \$500,000 under the Sports Park payment).
- Reduction to 88 FTEs and a reduction to \$3.3m in salaries, wages and allowances.
- All the camps and the two reserves are administered by the Board under the Parks Reserves Act.
- Allocation of \$5m under the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund - one third is provided by the community, one third by local Government and one third through the CSRFF.
- Estimated \$228,000 for the programs and \$289,000 for salaries for the junior sporting development unit - 100 schools were involved, 624 teachers and 16,700 children.
- Camp Quararup will be sold as the deficit in 1991 was more than at any other camp. Restoration of the buildings is estimated between \$400,000-\$500,000.
- Youth Hostels Association entered into an arrangement with the Board for the Kingston Barracks at Rottneest.
- YHA will make York Camp available to the community on an on-going basis.
- Bunbury office of the Department has a network of regional development offices for a variety of sports.
- Recreation division works with local Government, Seniors Recreation Council, numerous other seniors' clubs and youth agencies such as the YMCA and the Institute of Recreational Aquatic Management.
- Research and pilot programs for women from non-English speaking backgrounds.



- Around \$420,000 to \$460,000 will be spent by the BMA on maintenance.
- Extraordinary payment for a public liability claim of \$240,000.
- FTEs in the Public Affairs Service have been reduced from 4 to 1.
- Rent for Perry Lakes is paid to the Perth City Council.
- Rent lease fees of \$32,559 are paid for the Woodman Point Reserve and Cape Peron Reserve.
- Provision is made under the General Loan and Capital Works Fund of \$750,000 for a soccer headquarters and \$900,000 for a State cycling facility.
- Establishment of the Women in Sport body.

#### **South West Development Authority**

- Debt level at 30 June 1992 was \$18,663,588 - debt servicing expenditure of \$3.062m has declined slightly from the previous year.
- Bunbury Harbour City project - assessment of the white silos is still to be determined. A shopping centre development is proposed for that site.
- 1988/89, Authority purchased a set of maps for \$38,000.
- SWDA holds \$4m in freehold land in the Picton and Glen Iris areas.
- \$150,000 is budgeted by the Bunbury Port Authority for the purchase of SWDA land.
- SWDA is not eligible for funding under the General Loan and Capital Works Funds - borrows from the W.A. Treasury Corporation through approval in the General Loan and Capital Works Estimates of Expenditure.
- Provision of \$150,000 at Binningup is part of the \$1.8m package negotiated with the Shire of Harvey for the development of the Kemerton industrial estate.
- Industrial supplies office commenced operation in October 1992.
- Maximum cooperation with other agencies where there is potential for overlap.
- Rental for the 9th and 10th floors of the Bunbury Tower is \$191,000 a year - there are also other rental costs for the Manjimup and Mandurah offices.

#### **Office of Seniors' Interests**

- Two programs - first is the Impact of Ageing Program (provide advice to the Government), the second is the Care and Respect Program (direct services to seniors).
- Office is located in the May Holman Centre - rent is \$190,000 a year.

- Estimate is for 21 FTEs for 1992/93.
- Three vehicles attached to the office.
- Personal alarm scheme has been introduced and funding allocated for 1992/93.
- Increase in communications to \$100,000; services and contracts to \$421,000; and grants, subsidies and transfer payments to \$458,000, for 1992/93.
- Program will identify and carry out a survey on elder abuse - brochure will be produced at a cost of around \$100.
- Seniors' Card - person must be over the age of 60 and not in the full time paid workforce. Approximately 50 people are currently holders of a gold Seniors' Card.
- Meditalk hotline is intended to get seniors to discuss the medications they are taking. Pharmacist is located within the Seniors' Information Service.
- Office provides Council of the Ageing with a grant of \$70,000 a year.
- Developing a strategy on ageing to help the Government shape the direction of policies and programs into the next decade.

#### **Western Australian Tourism Commission**

- CRF is not the Commission's total income - from a number of sources.
- 1992/93 total expenditure will drop to \$21.661m.
- Operational costs of the Commission have remained around \$19.5m per year.
- FTEs have increased by 5 to 199 - overall 10 are situated in country areas.
- Closure of various country offices has resulted in a re-allocation of resources.
- Strategy is to encourage Western Australians to take holidays in their own State.
- New regional tourism strategy was as a result of a management decision by the Commission - no staff will be made redundant.
- Regional development authorities (where they exist) will perform some of the duties previously undertaken by the Commission's regional officers.
- \$2.1m drop in the promotion of Western Australia as a tourist destination.
- Increase of 3 FTEs in Corporate Services costing around \$820,000.
- Review of the current Act - Sunset clause for the Act is December 1993.
- Promotion of regional tourism - three basic brochures promote the unique north, the golden heartland and the great southern.
- Plan to develop unique events - the World Motocross Championship in Manjimup generated 16,000 customers on the final day.

- Allocation of \$910,000 to the operation of country tourist bureaus.
- Eight staff are working internationally at present - vacant position in Singapore.

#### **Department of Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare (DOSHWA)**

- Increase to \$2.892m in services and contracts is the devolution of costs for accommodation and rental and cleaning services.
- Motor vehicles funded through the General Loan and Capital Works Fund of Treasury.
- Coal Mines Regulations Act is the responsibility of the Department of Minerals and Energy.
- Outcomes flowing from the Kelly Inquiry will be actioned during 1992/93.
- Cabinet decision that DOHSWA provide the financial and human resources for the 'Inquiry into Occupational Health and Safety in the Mining Industry'.
- Around \$70,000 for industry and community awareness program will be the subject of promotional initiatives, ie safety on farms - a kit has been produced.
- Three offices - West Centre in Hay Street, Bunbury and Karratha.
- Review of the Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Regulations - a set of draft regulations will be released for public comment early next year.
- Younger people are injured at a rate 50% greater than that of experienced workers.
- \$100,000 allocated to increasing occupational health and safety awareness through schools and colleges. \$20,000 will be available for induction training manuals.

#### **Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM)**

- Three various programs - conservation, recreation and tourism.
- Aim in the medium term is to make CALM self funding - user pays principle.
- Environmental Appeals Committee is contained in the CALM budget purely as an administrative function.
- Proposal to establish a threatened species and communities unit - cost is \$250,000.
- Feral animals - foxes and cats are the biggest concern. 'Operation Foxglove' is to eradicate large numbers of foxes.
- Program called 'Desert Dreaming' introduces animals back into the desert.
- Achievements include development of policies and programs for the involvement of aboriginal people in conservation and land management.
- Community consultation in regard to Shark Bay as a world heritage area.

- Dieback mapping is expensive at \$10 a hectare - approximately 2 million hectares will need to be surveyed around the south coast area.
- National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority has substantially increased funding on dieback research, as has the Federal Government.
- Five FTEs for an Environmental Appeals Committee at a cost of \$312,000.
- Extension of responsibilities of harvesting contractors to include regeneration.
- Timber strategy - CALM controls all logging in the State (subcontracted).
- Reduction in log royalties of \$2m - wood chip royalties have increased.
- 220,000 hectares of forest is to be prescribed burnt in 1992/93.
- Aboriginal communities have been contracted on 16 land management projects.
- Introduction and subsequent withdrawal of entry fees to Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park - CALM charges less than \$6 to visit national parks.
- Only 10 of the 60 national parks had gazetted management plans.
- Recoupable projects - short fall of \$108,000.

#### **Environmental Protection Authority**

- Four divisions - corporate services, increase due to accounting change for rental accommodation; environmental evaluation division, slight increase; environmental investigation and policy division, reduced by \$184,000; and pollution management, slight reduction.
- Staff allocation is very much the same as the previous year.
- Petrol lead level is now 0.6 grams per litre - commitment to reduce the level to 0.4 grams per litre by 1996 will require multi-million dollar investment by BP Refinery.
- Bindoon tyre fire cost around \$600,000 - funds for such emergencies are reimbursed by Treasury.
- Increase in administration and finance from \$1.198m to \$3.79m - due to accommodation in Westralia Square (\$2m) and the combined total rent for the four offices being \$2.4m.
- \$85,000 increase in corporate services - cost associated with the review of the Act.
- EPA does not have direct management of waste disposal sites.

## **Department of Land Administration**

- Operations include - register of foreign ownership of land; final year of the Register 2000 project; Cocos-Keeling Islands project; and the Vietnam project.
- Reduction in actual expenditure from \$50.76m to \$45.297m due to 'one off' adjustments and the \$2.2m provision for the purchase of land at Midland.
- Introduction of pre-printed A4 documents - Titles Office forms to be exchanged electronically.
- Computerised data base of all aboriginal land applications throughout the State.
- FTEs have increased, allocation for salaries and contingencies has decreased.
- Register 2000 project - converted old small computer system to a mainframe HDS.
- Increase from \$253,000 to \$523,000 - devolution of rental on all accommodation.
- State land information capture program - will provide a more correct identification of land.
- New premises at Midland - DOLA owns the land and there is a lease arrangement with a finance company. Total cost of the project is around \$53m.

## **Department of State Services**

- Department at no stage instructed the Department of Corrective Services to undertake an investigation of their Building Services Division - professional staff were provided for assistance only.
- Purchasing has essentially been delegated to individual departments under specific guidelines established by the State Supply Commission.
- Reduction of \$80,000 for funds allocated to the astronomy sub-program - Perth Observatory is the only observatory in Australia under State Government control.
- School material supplies have been reduced from \$2.5m to \$700,000 due to schools having the option of purchasing elsewhere.
- Information technology service is the principal computer operation for the State Government and constitutes the principal source of revenue - \$14.5m in a full year from the Department of State Taxation and Transperth.
- Printing services reduced from \$11.5m to \$8.4m due to a general decrease in expenditure by the public sector.
- Loss of the contract to publish the telephone directory was beneficial - Staff numbers were reduced and the management structure and work practices changed.
- Responsible for providing professional advice to the Motor Vehicle Policy Committee which sets policy for the public sector - 3 FTEs cost \$144,000.
- Possibility of establishing Fleetwest - Government would purchase the total motor

vehicle fleet and hire out the vehicles to individual agencies.

- Central warehousing of state supplies and computerisation through the inheritance of the Kewdale Distribution Centre within the Ministry of Education building.
- \$1.806m is paid overall in rent - \$900,000 for the Kewdale Distribution Centre.

#### **Library Board of Western Australia**

- Reduction of \$700,000 in the amount for acquisitions - will still purchase the same amount of materials (and quite likely more) than was the case last year.
- Assisted the Ministry of Education in rationalising collection at the Rooney Library.
- Largest purchaser of library materials in Australia - good bargaining power.
- Board is paying payroll tax.
- Proposal for funding the Braille Library on the same basis as public libraries.
- Reduction in the amount of interest paid on loans borrowed from the W.A. Treasury Corporation.
- Access to general archive Government files is based on retention and disposal schedules developed by the respective agencies.
- Planned achievements - review of the existing exchange program in order to meet the demand for increased library services and to design a new model for regional public library services including rural and urban areas.

**THURSDAY OCTOBER 15, 1992**

**Department of Community Services**

- Increase of 6.6%, from \$111.123m 1991/92 to \$118.538m in 1992/93.
- FTEs increased from 1,394 in 1991/92 to 1,422 in 1992/93.
- Non-Government sector increase is substantial - \$30,883,000 in 1991/92 to \$37,326,000 in 1992/93.
- Decrease of 11% for corporate services; increase of 7.7% for family services; increase of 5.9% for financial and material assistance; increase of 12.6% for children's protection; increase of 8.5% for young offenders; and an increase of 17% for community affairs.
- Social Advantage package comprises \$6.1m over a full year and emphasises the value of children and involves parent information services.
- New Department for Community Development has responsibility for the functions previously undertaken by the Department for Community Services with additional allocation of funds for the family and a responsibility for the provision of services to 4 year olds.
- Young Offenders program - expenditure last year of \$3.24m to an estimate of \$3.6m in 1992/93.
- Additional allocation of \$625,000 to improve youth programs - currently 70 such projects are operating within a budget of around \$4.55m.
- Establishment of a serious repeat offender taskforce - intention is to target 100 most serious offenders.
- Secure detention centres program - capital works for the construction of the Rangeview Remand Centre is \$10m and intended for completion in April 1993.
- Increased allocation for services and contracts is that \$1.9m is a transfer of expenditure for all rental and cleaning costs.
- Planned achievements - the establishment of the Youth Justice Bureau; and establishment of 4 pilot multi-disciplinary youth justice teams (cost around \$250,000) under the Social Advantage Package.
- 102% increase has occurred in child protection complaints over the past 3 years.
- Increase in the number of Aboriginal groups providing services to families.
- Social Advantage Package - \$100,000 made available for child sexual abuse programs.
- Family services allocation has increased from \$58.137m to \$62.6m.

## **Department of Corrective Services**

- Report is being prepared into the Department's Building Services Division.
- Rate of increase in the use of work and development orders from the previous year to the current financial year was 66.8%.
- Average cost per offender per day in prison is currently \$146 and the cost per offender per day on a work and development order (for community based correctional offenders) is \$5 per day.
- Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody - instituted initiatives to increase the rate at which Aboriginal prisoners are diverted from custody.
- Aboriginal community accounts for 2.6% of the general community, but around 40% of the present population are Aboriginal.
- Farm properties - value of livestock deficiency is \$10,500.

## **Treasury Department**

- Guidelines for capital works procedures include progress justification and economic analysis - minor works generally involve amounts under \$25,000.
- No set rules as to what should be appropriated from either the General Loan and Capital Works Fund or CRF.
- Expenditure Review Committee determines which minor works programs should be debited against CRF or the General Loan and Capital Works Fund.
- Imminent changes to the total global borrowing allocation relating to the treatment of operating leases as opposed to financial leases.
- Not the Department's role to enforce on departments the provisions of Statutes - the role of the Office of the Auditor-General.
- Trust accounts and Government instrumentalities - interest is paid according to the trust fund balance held - \$65m was earned and paid out in 1991/92.
- 'Contingencies' - more appropriate wording may be 'running costs'.
- Voluntary severance scheme resulted in reduction of 1,986 staff positions and was primarily funded from CRF. Total cost of the scheme was \$102m - the original estimate of \$50m was predicated on around 1,000 people taking up the offer.

## **Office of the Auditor-General**

- Audit fee for Westrail was \$120,000 and was absorbed by the Office of the Auditor General.
- Contract out the field order component of about 20% of the Office's audit work.



- Recover around \$3m in fees (returned to CRF) from agencies that are not primarily budget dependent - SECWA, Westrail etc.
- Creation of a unit to develop an approach to auditing performance indicators - difficulty in auditing in the context of the literal requirement of the FAAA.
- 'Reduction' for services and contracts is due to staffing levels being returned to the established level and the adjustment is minus \$300,000 attributable to private sector audits - offset by an increase in salaries, wages and allowances.
- Revising approach to accountability audit reports.

### **Law Reform Commission**

- FTEs (3) relate to senior research officers - Commission is made up of a number of members, three are part-time and two full time.

### **Legal Aid Commission**

- Refusal of applications - trend over the past 12 months has been slightly down.
- Commission is represented at Broome, South Hedland and Bunbury - consideration for other country centres particularly Geraldton, Kalgoorlie and Albany.
- Applications rejected due to lack of funds was 38% in 1991/92.
- Administration of the guidelines relating to legal assistance for the Royal Commission was the responsibility of the Premier.
- Local QC (if necessary) is used in cases tried in WA.
- Community educational activities - development over the next few years of a number of programs designed to educate and assist people about the law.
- Funds are allocated - 60% Commonwealth Government and 40% State.
- Family law cases attract 35% of funding; criminal law 48%; and the remaining 17% is for civil cases.
- Complaints that the Commission tends to give more aid to women than men.
- Market research indicated that the Commission was too narrowly focused - amendments to the Act will contain changes to the financial provisions.
- Australian Law Societies have been promoting a legal expenses insurance scheme - scheme has been operating quite successfully in South Australia.
- Co-operative relationship with the Aboriginal Legal Service in the north west of the State - Commission 'fills in' if ALS is unable to make a particular court or circuit.

### **Office of the Valuer General**

- Revaluation of the old Swan Brewery site.
- Two property lots in Broome were valued as part of advice to DOLA for freeholding.
- Revaluation of agricultural land in the Shire of Three Springs - values are based on what a property would sell for ie the market value.
- Demand for the services of the Office has increased at all levels - absorbing the increased workload through technology (reduction in staff).
- Introduction of annual valuations for the assessment of unimproved value will commence on 30 June 1993 - from the General Loan and Capital Works Fund.
- Sale by resumption - valuation would be on the highest and best use of that land.
- Dispute over a valuation - achieve amicable settlement between the two different valuations.

### **Electoral Commission**

- Additional funds allocated for expenditure on the next State general election.
- Reduction in funding in the allocation to the education area.
- No recommendations for changes in the method of handling disputed returns.
- Expenditure for the education and promotion sub-program is \$215,000 - mainly directed towards school children.
- Advertisements in the press prior to the last referendum contained relevant information about electorates and other information.
- Joint roll agreement exists between the Commonwealth and State Governments with regular links between the two offices.
- Commission pays a share of the cost of the enrolment process and half of the habitation review that the Commonwealth conducts periodically - around \$350,000.
- Distinction between the Commonwealth and State Electoral Laws for disqualification from remaining on the roll.
- Ashburton by-election - problem with the way illiterate people were treated under the Electoral Act as well as the discrimination against elderly Aboriginals.
- Commonwealth commenced two yearly cycle of habitation reviews last February.
- Commission runs other elections of industrial unions and various Government boards and authorities.
- Duplication rate for the referendum - prosecution phase in several weeks.

- Provide assistance on electoral processes - not involved in survey work.
- Additions to the roll totalled 265,770 and deletions 223,432 - a net gain of around 40,000. Total number of voters is 1.030m.
- Receive regular information from the Registrar General's Office on deaths.

### **Department of Minerals and Energy**

- New Department is a combination of the original Department of Mines with the Energy Policy and Planning Bureau, the Minerals and Energy Research Institute of W.A. (MERIWA) and the Renewable Energy Advisory Council (REAC).
- Reduction in FTEs from 746 to 728 thirteen staff in the Minister's Office were transferred to the Ministry of Premier and Cabinet.
- Total worker and public safety program - reduction in expenditure to \$6.979m.
- Frequency of petroleum industry field inspections was only 80% of that achieved in the previous year - however number of injuries suffered dropped last year.
- Introducing administrative and legislative changes to increase the opportunity for prospectors to access land held under Mining Act Title, that is not being worked.
- Department does not pay for the running of the Warden's Courts - regional network of these courts and mining registrar's offices.
- Provide the community with a range of pamphlets, displays and photographic exhibitions to illustrate the role of the mining and petroleum industries.
- Number of informal memorandums of understanding have been developed which list the responsibilities of the Department relative to the EPA.
- Resolution of conflicts policy in relation to mining in national parks - an assessment will be done for mineral as well as biological potential.
- Created a national mapping accord with the Commonwealth Government to assist in the mapping program in the eastern goldfields and the Kimberley.
- Work with the CSIRO and the universities to ensure that projects they carry out supplement data provided by the Government - maximise the uptake of data.
- Liaison Committee meets regularly with industry to discuss 5 year rolling plans for geological mapping.
- Combined with the Chamber of Mines and Energy to educate companies and workers regarding the use of alcohol and drugs.
- Survey of Perth ground water to measure the level of contamination is on-going.
- Increase in contingencies for the EPPB from \$760,000 to \$1.68m are due to two new elements - financing efficient energy use scheme (cost around \$600,000); and Home Energy Advice and Assistance Scheme (cost around \$400,000).

### **Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority**

- State-Commonwealth relations is a formal sub-program of the Authority designed to address duplication and lack of co-ordination in the field.
- Aboriginal Affairs Council consists of Aboriginal Affairs Ministers - working party established to overcome duplication in Aboriginal affairs.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act (ATSIC) - 15 regional councils elected Aboriginal representatives.
- Authority is fundamentally committed to concept of self determination ie ATSIC.
- Grants from Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody total \$542,000.
- Allocation of \$200,000 to Aboriginal Communities Act empowering communities with self control within their boundaries.
- \$1.2m allocated to the land program to help development of the community living environment and infrastructure.
- Most commonly, Aboriginal organisations are incorporated under Commonwealth provisions - some are under State provisions.
- Facilitation of direct resourcing - the development of the concept of Aboriginal plans by 10 Government agencies.
- Australian Law Reform Commission reviewing Aboriginal law and the High Court decision in the Marbo case, are looking at matters from the Aboriginal perspective.
- Established an Aboriginal women's taskforce.
- Aboriginal participation in local Government - Authority provides some funding for Aboriginal liaison officers with some local Government authorities.
- Works and progress to June 1992 for Aboriginal housing was \$12,680,000 - \$8m shortfall from the estimated expenditure.

### **Miscellaneous Services**

#### **Item 21: Benedictine Community of New Norcia Inc.**

- \$193,000 - payment for the upgrading of the sewage scheme. WAWA will design and carry out Stages 1 and 2 on behalf of the community.

#### **Item: Churches Commission on Education**

- Establishment of chaplaincies at schools in under-privileged areas.

#### **Item 39: Western Australian Financial Institutions Authority**

- Established in July 1992 and is a State supervisory authority. One off contribution as the authority will be industry funded.

**Item 41: Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund - Contribution to Trust Fund Account**

- Originally intended to provide \$5m - however the Government revised the arrangement and made a three year forward commitment of \$15m.
- Perhaps more appropriate in the budget of the Ministry of Sport and Recreation.

**Fremantle Cemetery Board**

- No allocation this year - last year land was purchased adjoining the cemetery.

**Item 47: R & I Bank of W.A. Limited - Partial Privatisation**

- Amount has been spent in relation to work undertaken by the financial advisers.

**Item 49: Rottnest Island Authority**

- Accounts are provided to Treasury at the end of each financial year. Accounts are audited - Auditor-General indicates any concerns.
- Allocation of \$55,000 is for interest payments.
- Auditor General indicated that the borrowings of \$600,000 were drawn under the capital works program for the Island's water supply and sewage works. Expenditure on the item was \$315,931 and the balance of \$284,069 was used for acquisition purposes other than those approved under the capital works program.
- Auditor-General was concerned with the financial position of the Authority - inadequate management control over the use of funds; day to day and periodic cash flow forecasts were not prepared to monitor performance; legal requirements of the FAAA were not observed; and creditors were not paid on a timely basis incurring late payment penalties.
- Nothing submitted to Parliament seeking approval for appropriations for the Authority - large amount of money used without the direction of the Minister.

**Item 51: Western Australian Boxing Commission**

- Funding may be more appropriate under the Ministry of Sport and Recreation.

**Item 52: Western Australian Building Authority - Debt Charges**

- Borrowing Authority prior to the Treasury Corporation - borrowing mainly for capital works. Aim is to consolidate debt charges into the Special Acts category where the Treasury Corporation debt charges are met.

**Item 53: Western Australian Water Resources Council**

- Established in 1982 and WAWA is against the responsibility for meeting this cost.

**Item 54: Fare Concessions - Reimbursement to Transperth**

- New ticketing machines will provide a more precise method of determining the actual cost of concessional fares - fares are around \$34m.
- Subsidy for pensioners and the unemployed increased by \$1m.
- Westrail's passengers decreased by 4.1% last year.
- Bus fares declined and the rail fares increased by \$2m.

**Item 55: Local Authority Sewerage Subsidy Scheme**

- Assistance is provided for local authorities to meet loan repayments on capital loans raised for the construction of schemes approved by WAWA.

**Item 58: Rail Freight, Fare and Other Concessions - Reimbursement to Westrail of Cost of Sundry Concessions**

- Concessions are no longer applicable - wool consignment was \$180 in 1991/92.

**Item 59: Seniors' Rebate - Reimbursement to Water Boards and Local Authorities for Water, Sewerage and Drainage Rates Rebates**

- Rebate does not include WAWA.
- Water Boards in Bunbury, Busselton and other country authorities are involved.

**Item 60: Social Welfare Concessions - Reimbursement to Transperth**

- Intention of Treasury to review the 25 and 40 percent arrangements.
- Disbursement from the Transport Trust Fund - \$43.5m went to the Perth Metropolitan Trust which is separate to the social welfare concessions.

**Item 62: State Energy Commission of W.A. - North West Shelf Gas**

- Reimbursement from the Commonwealth Government following the renegotiation of an agreed statement of principles in 1985.

**Item 63: Aboriginal Lands Trust - Remuneration for Mining on Aboriginal Reserves**

- Reappropriation of rent and royalties collected on mining and petroleum of tenants situated on Aboriginal reserves from 1 January to 31 December 1991 to the Aboriginal Lands Trust.

**Item 64: Act of Grace Payments**

- Large decrease is due to the cessation of payments for legal representations for the Royal Commission - \$8m was paid in legal fees.

**Item 68: Energy Board of Review**

- Established in April 1992 to focus on the future restructuring of electricity and gas industries in the State. Total amount will be reimbursed by SECWA.

**Item 75: Legal and Related Expenses**

- Increased from \$306,000 to estimated \$1m - the latter is a 'guess'.

**Item 76: Loan Management Expenses**

- Expenditure for natural disasters is met in the first instance from the Treasurer's Advance Account.

**Item 78: Remote Commercial Television Service**

- Only one service will be operating from the Kimberley if the Commonwealth Government pulls out of the remote television services.

**Item 84: Telephone and Telex Charges - Central Government Buildings**

- Costs have increased from \$811,000 to \$1.25m.
- \$200,000 was attributable to the transfer of a number of agencies, including the office of the Minister of Agriculture, the Department of Productivity and Labour Relations and State Information Technology from central Government buildings.

**Item 86: Treasurer of Western Australia - Loan Repayment - Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited****Item 87: Treasurer of Western Australia - Western Australian Government Holdings Limited - Share Capital****Item 88: Western Australia Government Holdings Limited - Legal and Other Expenses**

- Essentially the repayment of capital on the borrowings of \$175m for the Petrochemical Industries Co Ltd project - now borrowed from the ANZ Bank.
- Normally paid \$25m of the principal - last year it was discounted to \$24.6m.
- State's total liability is now \$150m as one payment of \$25m has been paid.
- Legal fees amounted to \$1.1m and stamp duty almost \$700,000.

**Item 89: Wittenoom Asbestos Issues Inquiry**

- \$35,000 allocated for the Wittenoom asbestos issues inquiry - amount expended last year totalled \$11,000.

**Item 90: Wittenoom Assistance Scheme**

- Inquiry has been completed and Cabinet is deliberating upon the report.
- \$680,000 is a provisional amount on the basis of demolishing various buildings and revegetating the area.



## PART 5

### CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BUDGET

The Committee met with the President, the Hon Clive Griffiths, the Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Clerk Assistant (Administration) on Thursday October 22, to discuss the 1992/93 Budget Estimates.

The following points were raised -

- (i) Treasury has introduced monthly returns for certain expenditures instead of quarterly returns and also requires three year estimates projections;
- (ii) Legislative Council initially submitted a budget of \$1.658 million to Treasury - \$1.588 million was the amount actually provided;
- (iii) Legislative Council (and Parliament in general) is not advised prior to the introduction of the Budget into the Legislative Assembly, of the amount to be provided for the next financial year. Forward planning for Standing Committees and Select Committees is therefore very imprecise and amounts to a "best guess" scenario;
- (iv) For the first time, a full year's rent is being paid for the WANG building and is included within the \$1.588 million budget. This total figure should be adequate, given that it is anticipated that Parliament will not sit the "normal" number of weeks this financial year, due to the State election;
- (v) Prorogation will not stop the overall work of the Committee office - consideration of delegated legislation will still be ongoing and the Law Reform Commission is prepared to "take on" one of the Advisory/Research Officers in respect to statutes revision;
- (vi) Legislative Council has provision for 23 FTE's overall- currently 22 are filled. The staff structure for the Council (particularly in regard to serving the needs of the various Committees) needs to be addressed and clearly identified;
- (vii) Provision is made in the overall Legislative Council budget to "buy in" expertise to assist in the work of a particular committee;
- (viii) Parliament was advised by Treasury in April this year of an indicative amount of \$8m that would probably be allocated. No further breakdown in this figure was possible;
- (ix) Funding of many Parliaments (including the House of Lords) is covered by a "parliamentary commission", whereby the budget prepared by officers of the House is presented by the Presiding Officer to the commission (being appointed Members of the House). The final approved budget is then presented to the Treasurer; and
- (x) No funds are available through the Joint House Committee for maintenance or upgrading (refurbishment) of Parliament House. Furthermore, the issue of the sound system in the chamber will not be considered this year.

### **General Comments of the Committee**

- (a) The Committee expressed concern at the current arrangement for the allocation of funds for the Legislative Council budget (and indeed Parliament). It was generally believed that the budget for the Legislative Council should be determined by Parliament and provided direct to the Treasury (through the Treasurer) with the final appropriation known well in advance of the formal announcement by the Premier of the annual State Government Budget.
- (b) To assist in this process, the Chairmen of the Standing Committees, should be consulted in the preparation of the final budget for the Legislative Council.
- (c) Consideration should be given to the introduction of a system similar to that already in place in other Parliaments, whereby a budget prepared by officers of the House is presented to a parliamentary commission for approval and then provided to the Treasurer.

## PART 6

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# APPENDIX

ESTIMATES MEETINGS: 12-16 OCTOBER 1992 (Final schedule, as at October 1)

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
09.00-09.30			{1} HEALTH DEPT (H)	{4} COMMUNITY SERVICES (B)	
09.30-10.00			{1} "	{4} " "	
10.00-10.30			{1} "	{1} CORRECTIVE SERVICES (B)	
10.30-11.00			{4} EDUCATION DEPT (H)	{1} TREASURY (B)	
11.00-11.30			{4} "	{1} AUDITOR GENERAL (B)	
11.30-12.00pm			{4} "	{2} LAW REFORM COMM (B)	
12.00-12.30			{2} DEVET [TAFE & Employment & Training] (H)	{2} LEGAL AID (B)	
12.30-1.00			{2} " " "	{2} VALUER-GENERAL'S OFF (B)	
1.00-2.00	LUNCH				
2.00-2.30	{1} BMA (H)	{1} POLICE DEPT (E)	{3} OFF. OF RACING & GAMING (E)	{5} WA ELECTORAL COMM (B)	
2.30-3.00	{1} OFF. WOMEN'S INTEREST (H)	{1} " "	{3} SPORT & RECREATION (E)	{5} MINERALS & ENERGY (B)	
3.00-3.30	{4} OFF. MULTICULTURAL INT (H)	{1} POLICE LICENSING (E)	{3} REC. CAMPS & RESERVES (E)	{5} " "	
3.30-4.00	{4} WA MUSEUM (H)	{5} AGRICULTURE DEPT (E)	{5} SWDA (E)	{4} ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS (B)	
4.00-4.30	{4} ART GALLERY (H)	{5} AGRIC. PROTECTION BOARD (E)	{2} OFF. SENIORS INTEREST (E)	{3} MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES (B)	
4.30-5.00	{3} ARTS & PERFORM ARTS (H)	{5} RAFCOR (E)	{2} TOURISM COMMISSION (E)	{3} " "	
5.00-5.30	{3} PERTH THEATRE TRUST (H)	{2} FISHERIES DEPT (E)	{1} DOSHWA (E)		
5.30-6.00	{2} a) HERITAGE COUNCIL (H) b) GREAT SOUTH DEV. AUTH. (H)	{2} W.A MEAT COMMISSION (E)	{1} "		
6.00-7.30	DINNER				
7.30-8.00		{4} MARINE & HARBOURS (E)	{5} CALM (H)		
8.00-8.30		{4} WA COAST SHIP (E)	{5} "		
8.30-9.00		{4} TRANSPORT DEPT (E)	{4} EPA (H)		
9.00-9.30		{3} WAGRC (E)	{4} LAND ADMINISTRATION (H)		
9.30-10.00		"	{3} STATE SERVICES (H)		
10.00-10.30		{3} TRANSPERTH (E)	{3} LIBRARY BOARD (H)		

(B) Hon Joe Berinson MLC (H) Hon Kay Hallahan MLC (E) Hon Graham Edwards MLC

CHAIRPERSON: {1} Hon Max Evans {2} Hon Sam Piantadosi {3} Hon Bob Thomas {4} Hon Muriel Patterson {5} Hon Murray Montgomery