

41ST PARLIAMENT



Report 90

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

Consideration of the 2023-24 Budget Estimates

Presented by
Hon Peter Collier MLC (Chair)
November 2023

Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations

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Government response

This report is subject to Standing Order 191(1):

Where a report recommends action by, or seeks a response from, the Government, the responsible Minister or Leader of the House shall provide its response to the Council within not more than 2 months or at the earliest opportunity after that time if the Council is adjourned or in recess.

The 2-month period commences on the date of tabling.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1 This report concludes the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations' (Committee) consideration of the estimates of expenditure contained in the 2023 Appropriation Bills – now Acts – and detailed in the 2023-24 Budget Papers.
- 2 The Committee examined the Budget broadly, with a thorough examination of 17 agencies, and other agencies as required. Questions asked were wide-ranging and reflected both Committee and participating Members' interests.
- 3 In the course of this inquiry, the Committee:
 - examined the Government's request for funds in the Appropriation Acts, and how that request is expected to change over time and has changed relative to the 2022 request
 - examined agency resourcing, through the operating position and changes in cash assets
 - updated information on program evaluations
 - highlighted the establishment of the Asset Maintenance Fund and additional appropriation funding to the Climate Action Fund and Social Housing Investment Fund special purpose accounts
 - explored matters marked as confidential in the Budget
 - followed up on the release of 2023-24 Statements of Corporate Intent.
- 4 The Committee made 11 recommendations, all of which relate to improving disclosures, either in the budget papers or more broadly.
- 5 The report details 59 occasions where a Minister decided not to provide certain information to the Committee and elaborates on the legislative framework for managing non-provision.
- 6 The Committee considers the process provided an appropriate level of scrutiny of the 2023-24 estimates.

Recommendations

Findings and recommendations are grouped as they appear in the text at the page number indicated:

RECOMMENDATION 1

Page 7

The Premier and relevant Ministers release the full reports of the agency capability reviews, and the agency's response or implementation plan to that review.

RECOMMENDATION 2

Page 13

The Treasurer direct the Department of Treasury to examine the best method for clearly indicating in the budget statements whether a performance target is expected to be met.

RECOMMENDATION 3

Page 13

The Treasurer direct the Department of Treasury to ensure all changes to the performance reporting framework are disclosed in the budget statements.

RECOMMENDATION 4

Page 14

The Treasurer direct the Department of Treasury to publish a breakdown of payments from Treasurer's special purpose accounts by agency and program on the budget website.

RECOMMENDATION 5

Page 15

The Treasurer direct the Department of Treasury to group oversight and integrity bodies as a standalone Part in the budget papers and Appropriation Bills.

RECOMMENDATION 6

Page 18

The Minister for Transport direct the Commissioner of Main Roads to adopt the Western Australia Police Force approach for presenting adjusted service-level spending data.

RECOMMENDATION 7

Page 18

The Treasurer direct the Department of Treasury to refer to 'WA Health' as the 'Department of Health' in future budget papers and Appropriation Bills.

RECOMMENDATION 8

Page 18

The Treasurer direct the Department of Treasury to require entities consolidated at budget-time to list their component entities in the budget statements.

RECOMMENDATION 9

Page 19

The Treasurer direct the Department of Treasury to require entities consolidated at budget-time to disclose where particular services or key performance indicators are performed by a component entity in the budget statements.

RECOMMENDATION 10

Page 20

The Treasurer direct the Department of Treasury to develop appropriate systems for ensuring it can readily provide:

- all changes to the outcomes based management framework since the previous budget
- a list of all spending changes in the budget that are subject to a sunset clause and/or program evaluation and the timeframes for evaluation
- an update on all program evaluations from previous budget estimates rounds.

Ministers listed in Table 9 notify the Parliament and Auditor General of their decision to not provide certain information to the Committee.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Legislative Council Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations (Committee) is required to 'consider and report on ... the estimates of expenditure laid before the Council each year'.¹ This report concludes the Committee's consideration of the 2023-24 estimates of expenditure (estimates) laid before the Council on 11 May 2023.
- 1.2 The 2023-24 Budget (Budget) outlines the Government's priorities for the budget year (2023-24) and the 3 outyears (2024-25 to 2026-27). The Budget was accompanied by:
 - two Appropriation Bills²—the Government's formal request to Parliament to access funds from the Consolidated Account³ to implement the budget
 - the Budget Papers.
- 1.3 The Committee examined a number of broad financial matters, the operations of 17 agencies in detail,⁴ and other agencies as required.

2 The 2023 Appropriation Acts

- 2.1 The Government sought \$36.0 billion from the Consolidated Account in 2023-24, of which:
 - \$27.4 billion was for recurrent services, spread across 90 items of expenditure
 - \$8.6 billion was for capital purposes, spread across 65 items of expenditure.⁵The Appropriation Bills passed through both Houses of Parliament unamended and received Royal Assent on 31 August 2023.
- 2.2 The Appropriation Acts contain 7 one-off items⁶ and 7 items that will be discontinued this year.⁷
- 2.3 The authorised amount is \$5.7 billion higher than the 2022-23 amount, partly reflecting additional capital appropriations for the Public Transport Authority of Western Australia and

¹ [Legislative Council Standing Orders](#) Schedule 1 cl 3.3(a)(i), accessed 24 October 2023.

² The [Appropriation \(Recurrent 2023-24\) Bill 2023](#) and [Appropriation \(Capital 2023-24\) Bill 2023](#), accessed 24 October 2023.

³ The Consolidated Account is the central Account for funding the operations of Government.

⁴ These were the Commissioner of Main Roads; Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (the Environment portfolio appeared for a hearing); Department of Communities (the Child Protection; Community Services; and Housing portfolios appeared for a hearing); Department of Education; Department of Fire and Emergency Services; Department of Justice (including the Prisoners Review Board) (the Corrective Services portfolio appeared for a hearing); Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development; Department of the Premier and Cabinet; Department of Transport; Department of Treasury; Department of Water and Environmental Regulation; Mental Health Commission; Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions; Public Transport Authority of Western Australia; State Solicitor's Office; WA Health; and Western Australia Police Force.

⁵ The number in the Schedule to the [Appropriation \(Capital 2023-24\) Bill 2023](#) (accessed 24 October 2023) starts at item 91, following the last item number of [Appropriation \(Recurrent 2023-24\) Bill 2023](#) (accessed 24 October 2023), and finishes at item 155.

⁶ These items did not appear in the 2022 Appropriation Acts and have no money allocated for 2024-25. These are the Asset Maintenance Account (item 24); provision for inner city projects (item 31); Mid West Port Authority (item 108); provision for construction cost relief (item 111); Horizon Power (item 113); Burswood Park Board (item 115); and Western Australian Energy Disputes Arbitrator (item 118).

⁷ These items had payments in 2022-23 and comprise payments to the Fremantle Port Authority (item 18); Western Australia Police Force – amounts provided for administered grants, subsidies and other transfer payments (item 61); Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority (DevelopmentWA) (item 107); Water Corporation (item 117); Climate Action Fund (item 121); Social Housing Investment Fund (item 122); and Western Australia Museum (item 144).

the provision for decarbonisation of the South West Interconnected System electricity network.

What's new in the Appropriation Acts?

- 2.4 Compared to the 2022 Appropriation Acts, 17 items have been added to, and 15 have been removed from, the 2023 Appropriation Acts. Of these:
- the Department of Treasury will administer 14 new items,⁸ which include a provision for decarbonisation of the South West Interconnected System, additional funds for the Social Housing Investment Fund and the initial funds for an Asset Maintenance Account.⁹
 - there is a new ongoing appropriation item for the Department of Communities, reflecting the decision to separate the payments to the National Disability Insurance Scheme from the general appropriation.
 - 8 items were removed, as the 2022-23 Budget indicated that these items were temporary.

The authorised amount in context

- 2.5 The authorised amount can be considered in several ways:
- as part of the overall draw on the Consolidated Account
 - the expected request over time (within budget analysis)
 - the current request compared to the previous request (between budget analysis).
- 2.6 Table 1 shows the spending from the Consolidated Account authorised by the Appropriation Bills and other statutes,¹⁰ and the change in this spending over time.
- The Government expects to spend \$39.2 billion from the Consolidated Account in 2023-24, comprising \$36.0 billion authorised by the Appropriation Acts and \$3.2 billion authorised by other statutes.
 - Spending authorised under the Appropriation Bill No. 1 is expected to decline from \$27.4 billion in 2023-24 to \$26.0 billion in 2024-25, while spending authorised under Appropriation Bill No. 2 is expected to decline from \$8.6 billion to \$4.6 billion over the same period.

⁸ There are 5 recurrent items and 9 capital items.

⁹ The Appropriation Act and the budget statements refer to the 'Asset Maintenance Account'; the Economic and Fiscal Outlook refers to the 'Asset Maintenance Fund' (*Appropriation (Recurrent 2023-24) Act 2023*, Sch 1 (item 24), Government of Western Australia (Govt), *Western Australia State Budget 2023-24, Budget Statements*, budget paper no. 2, 11 May 2023, pp 4-5; Govt, *Western Australia State Budget 2023-24, Economic and Fiscal Outlook*, budget paper no. 3, 11 May 2023, p 269).

¹⁰ Certain Acts provide Government with automatic funding from the Consolidated Account for a specific purpose. For example, the *Salaries and Allowances Act 1975* provides funding for any position covered by the Act.

Table 1. Consolidated Account spending by authority, 2021-22 to 2026-27

	2021-22 Actual \$m	2022-23 Estimated Actual \$m	2023-24 Budget Year \$m	2024-25 Outyear \$m	2025-26 Outyear \$m	2026-27 Outyear \$m
Appropriation Bill No. 1 – Recurrent services	24,614	26,873	27,400	26,021	26,071	26,630
Appropriation Bill No. 2 – Capital purposes	8,766	4,783	8,628	4,613	2,268	1,829
Authorised by other statutes						
Recurrent services	2,671	2,734	2,714	2,809	2,959	3,080
Capital purposes	291	321	438	404	316	259
Financing	596	2,110	0	0	0	0
Total	3,558	5,165	3,152	3,213	3,275	3,339
Total	36,937	36,821	39,180	33,846	31,614	31,798

[Source: Government of Western Australia (Govt), *Western Australia State Budget 2023-24, Budget Statements*, budget paper no. 2, 11 May 2023, pp 16-17.]

- 2.7 Table 2 shows how the expected request for funds from the Consolidated Account in the 2023-24 Budget differs from the 2022-23 Budget for each of the Appropriation Bills. Since the 2022-23 Budget, the expected request for funds over 4 years has increased by \$10.5 billion for Appropriation Bill No. 1 and \$6.6 billion for Appropriation Bill No. 2.

Table 2. Summary of variations, Appropriation Bills

	2022-23 \$'000	2023-24 \$'000	2024-25 \$'000	2025-26 \$'000
Appropriation Bill No. 1 – Recurrent services				
2022-23 Budget	25,158,781	23,319,701	23,608,921	23,825,541
2023-24 Budget	26,873,321	27,400,123	26,020,861	26,070,762
<i>Difference</i>	<i>1,714,540</i>	<i>4,080,422</i>	<i>2,411,940</i>	<i>2,245,221</i>
Appropriation Bill No. 2 – Capital purposes				
2022-23 Budget	5,170,419	4,099,312	2,776,133	1,619,488
2023-24 Budget	4,782,480	8,627,661	4,612,726	2,267,508
<i>Difference</i>	<i>-387,939</i>	<i>4,528,349</i>	<i>1,836,593</i>	<i>648,020</i>

[Source: Govt, *Western Australia State Budget 2022-23, Budget Statements*, budget paper no. 2, 12 May 2022, pp 16-17 & Govt, *Western Australia State Budget 2023-24, Budget Statements*, budget paper no. 2, 11 May 2023, pp 16-17.]

- 2.8 The differences may be explained at the agency-level. For example, WA Health expected to receive \$5.7 billion in 2023-24 and is now expected to receive \$6.5 billion from Appropriation Bill No. 1.¹¹ The Committee has been unsuccessful in its attempts to obtain more detailed data (i.e. at the policy or decision-level) to explain the differences.

3 The 2023-24 Budget

- 3.1 The 2023-24 Budget is structured around the following 4 government goals:

- Investing in WA's future: Tackling climate action and supporting the arts, culture and sporting sectors to promote vibrant communities
- Safe, strong and fair communities: Supporting our local and regional communities to thrive
- Strong and sustainable finances: Responsible, achievable, affordable budget management
- WA Jobs Plan: Diversifying the WA economy, creating local jobs for the future.¹²

These goals are unchanged from the 2022-23 Budget.

- 3.2 Agencies contribute to these goals; and some agencies contribute to more than one goal. An agency will align its desired outcomes, services and key performance indicators to those goals. The indicators seek to measure the extent to which outcomes are achieved (effectiveness) or how efficiently services are delivered (efficiency).

- 3.3 Since the 2022-23 Budget was released, 18 agencies¹³ have changed their performance reporting framework. Of note:

- The Corruption and Crime Commission revised its framework, after the Office of the Auditor General identified issues with the data used to calculate key performance indicators, and to reflect that it had been allocated specific funding for its unexplained wealth function.¹⁴
- The Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations (Ombudsman) amended its reporting framework to reflect its obligations under the Reportable Conduct Scheme.¹⁵

- 3.4 Not all of these changes were disclosed in the relevant budget statements.

¹¹ Govt, *Western Australia State Budget 2022-23, Budget Statements*, budget paper no. 2, 12 May 2022, p 11 & Govt, *Western Australia State Budget 2023-24, Budget Statements*, budget paper no. 2, 11 May 2023, p 11.

¹² Govt, *Western Australia State Budget 2023-24, Budget Statements*, budget paper no. 2, 11 May 2023, various pages.

¹³ These are the Building and Construction Industry Training Board; Corruption and Crime Commission; Department of Finance; Department of Health; Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation; Department of Justice; Department of Local Government; Sport and Cultural Industries; Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety; Department of the Premier and Cabinet; Department of Treasury; Mental Health Commission; Metropolitan Cemeteries Board; Office of the Auditor General; Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations (Ombudsman); Public Transport Authority of Western Australia; Western Australian Land Information Authority; and Western Australia Police Force (Hon Mark McGowan, Premier; Treasurer, letter, 31 May 2023, Attachment B & answer to additional questions 2 and 3 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon Rita Saffioti MLA, Treasurer, 27 July 2023, pp 3-4).

¹⁴ Hon John Quigley MLA, Attorney General, letter, 29 June 2023.

¹⁵ Chris Field PSM, Ombudsman, letter, 26 June 2023.

Agencies examined in detail

- 3.5 The Committee examined 17 agencies in detail. Collectively, these agencies had:
- 59 desired outcomes
 - 100 key effectiveness indicators
 - 211 services
 - 179 key efficiency indicators.
- 3.6 In this budget, the Department of Communities changed how it accounts for payments for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).¹⁶ The Department previously included NDIS payments (and the appropriations received to fund those payments) as part of its controlled operations. The NDIS funding and payments are now administered transactions, and are disclosed in a separate table in its budget statements.
- 3.7 Further, the Department of Communities advised that it will spend more than \$300,000 to establish Keystart as a Government Trading Enterprise.¹⁷ The Treasurer advised:
- The Government is undertaking the reform process to bring the governance arrangements for Keystart into a consistent framework with other Government Trading Enterprises. The introduction of the *Government Trading Enterprises Act 2023* provides an opportunity to strengthen the accountability and governance arrangements of Keystart.¹⁸

Agency resourcing

- 3.8 An agency may be considered to be appropriately resourced if it has (or is expected to have) an operating surplus¹⁹ and not draw down on its cash reserves.²⁰ This information is summarised in Table 3.

Table 3. *Summary of agency resourcing, agencies examined in detail, 2021-22 to 2026-27*

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Operating position						
Surplus	14	7	4	6	7	8
Balance	0	1	1	0	1	1
Deficit	3	9	12	11	9	8

¹⁶ Govt, *Western Australia State Budget 2023-24, Budget Statements*, budget paper no. 2, 11 May 2023, p 501.

¹⁷ Govt, *Western Australia State Budget 2023-24, Budget Statements*, budget paper no. 2, p 501.

¹⁸ Answer to additional question asked by Hon Dr Brad Pettitt MLC and answered by Hon Rita Saffioti MLA, Treasurer, 27 July 2023, p 12. The Hon Steve Martin MLC also asked related questions (Answer to question prior to hearing asked by Hon Steve Martin MLC and answered by Hon Rita Saffioti MLA, Treasurer, 21 June 2023, p 3).

¹⁹ The 'surplus/(deficit) for the period' aggregate in the income statement shows whether own-source income and income from Government is sufficient to cover the total cost of services. The statement includes non-cash transactions.

²⁰ The 'net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents' aggregate in the statement of cashflows shows whether cash inflows exceeds cash outflows. Cash balances increase when cash inflows exceed outflows, and vice versa. On occasion, the Department of Treasury reviews agency cash levels and will require excess funds to be returned to the Consolidated Account (Department of Treasury (Treasury), [Cash management policy](#), December 2007, accessed 24 October 2023).

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Cash assets						
Increasing	N/A	2	3	6	6	8
Unchanged	N/A	0	0	0	2	4
Decreasing	N/A	15	14	11	9	5

[Source: Govt, *Western Australia State Budget 2023-24, Budget Statements*, budget paper no. 2, 11 May 2023, various pages.]

- 3.9 The table indicates that a majority of agencies expect to be in an operating deficit and draw down cash assets in 2023-24. The number of agencies in these positions is expected to decline over time.

4 Other matters

Agency capability reviews

- 4.1 The Public Sector Commission delivers a program of agency capability reviews. The purpose of the program is to provide a 'sector-wide approach to reviewing and building capabilities for effective public administration and high performance' in agencies.²¹ Initially a trial, the Budget made the program permanent, and the Commission expects to spend \$8.8 million on the program over 4 years (2023-24 to 2026-27).
- 4.2 The Commission has reviewed 6 agencies,²² and is currently reviewing the Departments of Communities; Primary Industries and Regional Development; and Treasury.²³
- 4.3 The Committee sought an explanation for how the Commission determined which agencies should be reviewed. The Premier advised:
- The Public Sector Commissioner, in consultation with the Premier as the Minister for Public Sector Management, makes the decision on which agencies will be reviewed. A range of factors are considered, including the size of the department and context such as department remit and government priorities. The selection of an agency for review is not an indication of their performance; positive or negative. All departments will be reviewed in the coming years.²⁴
- 4.4 The Commission has published executive summaries of the reviews completed to date on its [website](#) (accessed 24 October 2024). The Committee sought copies of the full report and the agency's response to the review. The Premier and each Minister advised the reports are

²¹ Govt, *Western Australia State Budget 2023-24, Budget Statements*, budget paper no. 2, 11 May 2023, p 76.

²² These were the Department of Finance (March 2023); Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (March 2023); Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (March 2023); Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (September 2022); Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (September 2022); and Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (September 2022).

²³ The reviews of the Departments of Communities; and Primary Industries and Regional Development began in January 2023 and are expected to be completed in the second half of 2023 (Answer to additional question 1 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon Don Punch MLA, Minister for Regional Development; Fisheries, 2 August 2023, p 1 & answer to additional question 1 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon John Carey MLA, Minister for Housing, 2 August 2023, p 1).

²⁴ Answer to additional question 1 asked by the Committee and answered by the Hon Roger Cook MLA, Premier, 27 July 2023, p 1.

Cabinet-in-confidence, and Ministers almost uniformly indicated the agency welcomed the review and is progressing relevant matters.²⁵

- 4.5 The Committee contrasts the current approach for disclosing review reports with the Commonwealth, which has made the full report for their agency capability reviews available on the Australian Public Sector Commission [website](#) (accessed 1 September 2023).²⁶ In addition to the full report, the website for recently completed reviews indicate when the agency's action plan will be published.

RECOMMENDATION 1

The Premier and relevant Ministers release the full reports of the agency capability reviews, and the agency's response or implementation plan to that review.

Evaluation plans

- 4.6 From 1 January 2014, all new programs (or extensions to existing programs) that impact on the State's net operating balance by \$5 million or more in any one year will be subject to a sunset clause and some form of program evaluation.²⁷ A sunset clause places a time limit on how long a program may run.
- 4.7 The Committee sought a list of spending changes in the Budget that are subject to a sunset clause and program evaluation, and an update on the program evaluations from previous budget rounds. The Treasurer advised that 18 programs would be subject to a sunset clause and program evaluation and provided an update on the 13 program evaluations from the 2022-23 Budget. The information is presented in Appendix 1.
- 4.8 The evaluations of the Aboriginal Community Connectors Program, the Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy, the Olabud Doogethu Halls Creek Youth Justice Reinvestment and the CAT Bus Service Extension trial are expected to have been completed by now.

Special purpose accounts

- 4.9 The Budget provides appropriations for a new special purpose account—the Asset Maintenance Fund—and will appropriate additional funds to the Climate Action Fund²⁸ and Social Housing Investment Fund special purpose accounts. Paragraphs 4.10 to 4.22 will explore each of these decisions in more detail.

²⁵ Answer to additional question 1 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon John Carey MLA, Minister for Planning, Lands, 25 July 2023, p 1; answer to additional question 1 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon Simone McGurk MLA, Minister for Water, 26 July 2023, p 1; answer to additional question 2 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon Roger Cook MLA, Premier, 27 July 2023, p 1; answer to additional question 1 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon Sue Ellery MLC, Minister for Finance, 28 July 2023, p 1; answer to additional question 1 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon Bill Johnston MLA, Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Energy; Industrial Relations, 2 August 2023, p 1; answer to additional question 1 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon Reece Whitby MLA, Minister for Environment; Climate Action, 4 August 2023, p 1 & answer to additional question 1 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon David Templeman MLA, Minister for Culture and the Arts; Sport and Recreation, 11 August 2023, p 1.

²⁶ The full report includes the agency's response to the review.

²⁷ Treasury, [Program evaluation guide](#), December 2020, accessed 24 October 2023, p 5 & Department of the Premier and Cabinet, [Expenditure Review Committee handbook](#), June 2023, accessed 24 October 2023, pp 6-7.

²⁸ There is a broader Climate Action Fund, which includes the Climate Action Fund and Softwood Plantation Expansion Fund special purpose accounts, and agency-related spending.

Asset Maintenance Fund

4.10 The purpose of the Fund is to:

fund priority maintenance works on State-owned assets, including schools, hospitals, and cultural and entertainment venues.²⁹

ensure high priority asset maintenance works are being addressed. The Fund will enable a range of improvements to the State's existing portfolio that relate to public health and safety, regulatory compliance standards, and asset performance and reliability.³⁰

4.11 The Government will appropriate \$250 million into the Fund in 2023-24. The Budget assumed \$100 million will be spent in 2023-24 and \$150 million will be spent in 2024-25. At budget-time, the Government had yet to decide where these funds will be spent, so these payments are included in the whole-of-government financial estimates as a 'provision'. As the Government decides where the payments will go, the provision will decline by the equivalent amount leaving the total financial impact unchanged.

4.12 The Treasurer advised that the funds would be allocated to specific assets as part of the 2023-24 mid-year review and 2024-25 Budget processes, and that it may result in revised cashflows.³¹ The Committee notes that revised cashflows—that is, cashflows that differ from the amount provisioned—will impact on the net operating balance.

4.13 The Committee also sought to understand what specific 'high priority' asset maintenance works will be funded and why these works weren't funded by the more usual means. The Treasurer advised:

The Asset Maintenance Fund (AMF) is expected to fund priority maintenance works on State owned assets such as schools, hospitals, police stations, courts, and cultural and entertainment venues.

The establishment of the AMF provides a mechanism for improved oversight, coordination and prioritisation of maintenance funding requests, in a similar manner that has applied with the Digital Capability Fund. The additional funding also represents a boost to existing maintenance effort.³²

4.14 It is too early for the Committee to assess whether the Fund will improve asset maintenance outcomes or represent a boost to existing maintenance effort.

Climate Action Fund

4.15 The Government will provide an additional \$869 million to the Fund in 2023-24, after providing an additional \$500 million in 2022-23.

4.16 The payments profile for the Fund has changed between the 2022-23 Budget and this Budget, as shown in Figure 1.

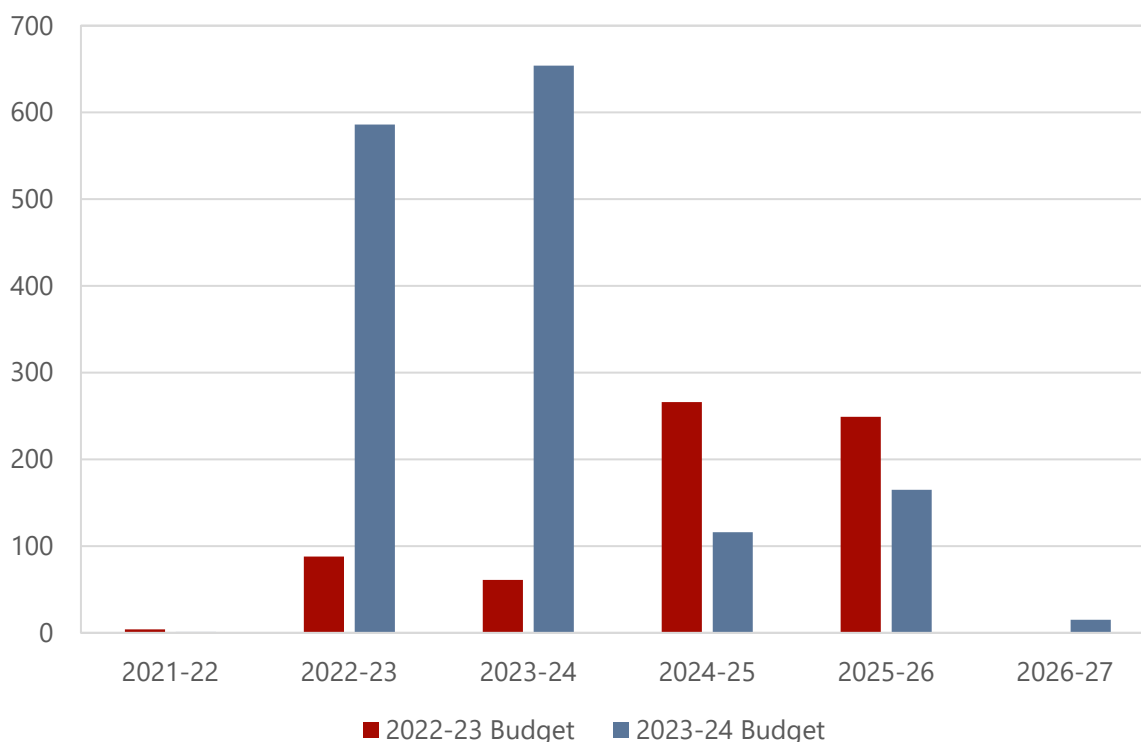
²⁹ Govt, *Western Australia State Budget 2023-24, Economic and Fiscal Outlook*, budget paper no. 3, 11 May 2023, p 5.

³⁰ Govt, *Western Australia State Budget 2023-24, Economic and Fiscal Outlook*, budget paper no. 3, p 269.

³¹ Answer to question prior to hearing 5 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon Rita Saffioti MLA, Treasurer, 27 June 2023, p 2.

³² Answer to question prior to hearing 5 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon Rita Saffioti MLA, Treasurer, p 2.

Figure 1. *Climate Action Fund, payments, \$ million, 2021-22 to 2026-27*



[Source: Answer to question prior to hearing 2 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon Mark McGowan MLA, Premier; Treasurer, 10 June 2022, p 16; Govt, *2021-22 Annual Report on State Finances*, September 2022, p 212; and Govt, *Western Australia State Budget 2023-24, Economic and Fiscal Outlook*, budget paper no. 3, 11 May 2023, p 278.]

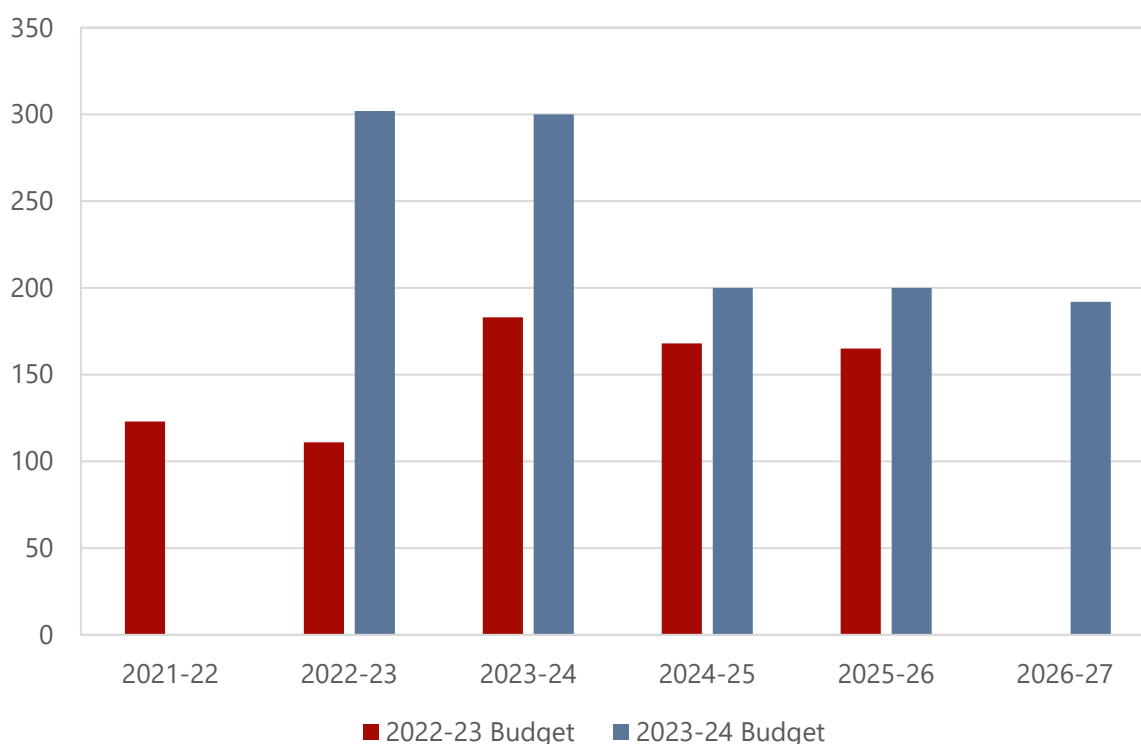
- 4.17 The data indicates that over 60% of the 2023-24 Budget payments are yet to be allocated to particular agencies or projects.³³ The Synergy decarbonisation provision comprises the largest component of the asset investment provision (\$869.1 million of the \$969.4 million provision).
- 4.18 The Committee will be able to assess how much was actually spent in 2022-23 when the annual reports are tabled.

Social Housing Investment Fund

- 4.19 The Government will provide a further \$450 million to the Fund in 2023-24, which received its initial funding of \$750 million in 2021-22.
- 4.20 The payments profile for the Fund has changed between the 2022-23 Budget and this Budget, as shown in Figure 2.

³³ Answer to question prior to hearing 2 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon Rita Saffioti MLA, Treasurer, 18 July 2023, p 8.

Figure 2. *Social Housing Investment Fund, payments, \$ million, 2021-22 to 2026-27*



[Source: Answer to question prior to hearing 2 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon Mark McGowan MLA, Premier; Treasurer, 10 June 2022, p 16; Govt, *2021-22 Annual Report on State Finances*, September 2022, p 212; and Govt, *Western Australia State Budget 2023-24, Economic and Fiscal Outlook*, budget paper no. 3, 11 May 2023, p 278.]

4.21 Of note:

- the top-up of funds in 2023-24 is arguably unnecessary, as the intended payments of \$300 million in that year could have been covered by existing funds.
- the Fund will have a \$6 million balance as at 30 June 2027
- there is currently \$300.1 million over 4 years (2023-24 to 2026-27) sitting in the asset investment program provision.³⁴

4.22 The Committee will be able to assess how much was actually spent in 2022-23 when the annual reports are tabled.

Confidential matters in the Budget

4.23 The Budget contained a number of matters marked 'confidential'. These were either listed and no financial impact disclosed, or the financial impact was disclosed with no explanation. For matters listed with no financial impact, the Committee sought the financial impact at budget-time and now (if it had changed since budget). For areas where the financial impact was known, but the matter was not, the Committee sought further details.

4.24 The following matters were confidential in the Budget:

- the financial impact of the Tjiwarl Palyakuwa Indigenous Land Use Agreement
- the financial impact of the Kimberley Housing and Orphan Road Recovery
- the financial impact of the Kimberley Recovery Housing and Community Roads Package

³⁴ Govt, *Western Australia State Budget 2023-24, Economic and Fiscal Outlook*, budget paper no. 2, 11 May 2023, pp 278 & 294.

- 'all other' administered income and expenses in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet
- 'other new works' in the asset investment program of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, which related to the Kimberley Recovery Housing and Community Roads Package.

4.25 The outcomes of this examination are contained in Appendix 2.

2023-24 Statements of Corporate Intent

- 4.26 Statements of Corporate Intent (SCIs) are important accountability documents that set out the financial and non-financial performance targets for the relevant financial year for the 21 statutory authorities that are required to prepare them.³⁵ The Committee considered late tabling of these documents in Parliament in Reports 77, 80 and 89.³⁶
- 4.27 As accountability documents, it is preferable for SCIs to be tabled prior to the start of the financial year for which they relate. Three were tabled by 30 June 2022, and one was deemed tabled during the winter recess. On 14 July 2023, the Committee wrote to the relevant Ministers, asking when the outstanding SCIs would be tabled. The Ministers who responded generally advised that the SCI would be tabled in August 2023.³⁷
- 4.28 Fifteen SCIs were tabled when Parliament resumed in August 2023,³⁸ with the SCI for the Western Australian Land Information Authority tabled on 29 August 2023 and the SCI for the Western Australian Land Authority (as DevelopmentWA) tabled on 19 September 2023. As at 11 October 2023, the SCI for Racing and Wagering Western Australia is yet to be tabled and the Minister is yet to advise when it will be tabled.³⁹
- 4.29 The Committee notes that the *Government Trading Enterprise Act 2023* changed the SCI requirements for the 12 entities affected by the Act.⁴⁰ These entities will no longer be required to prepare SCIs and will instead produce annual performance statements. These annual performance statements will be incorporated into the budget papers. The remaining entities will continue to operate under existing SCI arrangements.

³⁵ The following entities are required to prepare Statements of Corporate Intent – Bunbury Water Corporation (Aqwest); Busselton Water Corporation; Chemistry Centre (WA); Electricity Generation and Retail Corporation (Synergy); Electricity Network Corporation (Western Power); Forest Products Commission; Fremantle Port Authority; Gold Corporation; Government Employees Superannuation Board; Insurance Commission of Western Australia; Kimberley Port Authority; Lotteries Commission (Lotterywest); Mid West Ports Authority; Pilbara Ports Authority; Racing and Wagering Western Australia; Regional Power Corporation (Horizon Power); Southern Ports Authority; Water Corporation; Western Australian Land Authority; Western Australian Land Information Authority (Landgate); and Western Australian Treasury Corporation.

³⁶ Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations, report 77, *2017-18 Budget Cycle – Part 1: Estimates hearings and related matters*, Western Australia, Legislative Council, 4 April 2019, pp 22, 24-25 & 28; Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations, report 80, *2018-19 Budget Cycle – Part 2: Annual Report Hearings*, Western Australia, Legislative Council, 19 March 2020, p 20; and Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations, report 89, *Consideration of the 2021-22 Annual Reports*, Western Australia, Legislative Council, 22 June 2023, pp 17-18.

³⁷ The Committee did not receive responses from the Treasurer; Minister for Ports; Minister for Energy (for Synergy); and Minister for Racing and Wagering. Fortunately, all but one of these SCIs have been tabled.

³⁸ The 2023-24 SCI for the Electricity Generation and Retail Corporation (Synergy) was deemed tabled on 5 July 2023.

³⁹ The 2022-23 SCI for Racing and Wagering Western Australia is also yet to be tabled.

⁴⁰ It will affect the electricity corporations, water corporations, port authorities and the Western Australian Land Authority.

5 Observations on the 2023-24 budget papers

- 5.1 The Committee notes the budget papers have improved disclosures in the following ways:
- there is an explicit reference in the Forest Products Commission's financial statements that the 'impact of ceasing native forest logging on the Commissioner's budget has been reflected for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 years only'⁴¹
 - special purpose accounts listed in the relevant Appendix in the Economic and Fiscal Outlook now show data on the outyears
 - major special purpose accounts are explicitly identified as a funding source in an agency's financial statements and the asset investment program. This funding was previously grouped in 'other' revenues and receipts.
- 5.2 The Committee identified a number of other areas where additional information may aid scrutiny.

Ambiguous key effectiveness indicators

- 5.3 As part of its consideration of the 2021-22 annual reports, the Committee reflected that readers benefit when an annual report clearly identifies whether a performance target has been met or not. It noted that it is 'particularly helpful when it is not always clear whether a higher or lower result is a 'better or worse' outcome'.⁴² The Committee made a recommendation to improve clarity in annual reports, which the Government noted.⁴³
- 5.4 In many cases, it is readily apparent whether a higher or lower result is a better or worse outcome. For example, a higher result is preferable for key effectiveness indicators on the proportion of school students achieving proficiency in reading or numeracy, and a lower result is preferable for the rate of hospitalisation for alcohol and other drug use (per 100,000) population.⁴⁴
- 5.5 The budget statements show the 2022-23 Budget Target and the 2022-23 estimated actual for key effectiveness indicators. The 2022-23 actual will not be known until the annual reports are released. Among the agencies examined in detail, the Committee identified 2 key effectiveness indicators where it was not clear whether the expected result meant the target will be met or not.
- The Commissioner of Main Roads has a 'black spot location indicator', with a 2022-23 Budget target of 7.03 and an estimated actual of 7.24.⁴⁵
 - The Department of Communities has a 'responsiveness – total housing assistance provided relative to the public rental waiting list' indicator, with a 2022-23 Budget target of 0.45 and an estimated actual of 0.34.⁴⁶

⁴¹ Govt, *Western Australia State Budget 2023-24, Budget Statements*, budget paper no. 2, 11 May 2023, pp 282 & 286-289. The Minister was even clearer: 'On the advice of Treasury, the Forest Products Commission's (FPC) 2024-25, 2025-26 and 2026-27 outyears have not been updated from the FY2021-22 Budget figures' (Answer to question prior to hearing 1a asked by Hon Dr Brad Pettitt MLC and answered by Hon Jackie Jarvis MLC, Minister for Forestry, 9 June 2023, p 2).

⁴² Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations, report 89, *Consideration of the 2021-22 Annual Reports*, Western Australia, Legislative Council, June 2023, pp 31-32.

⁴³ Tabled Paper 2457, Legislative Council, 29 August 2023, p 3.

⁴⁴ Govt, *Western Australia State Budget 2023-24, Budget Statements*, budget paper no. 2, 11 May 2023, pp 327 & 352.

⁴⁵ Govt, *Western Australia State Budget 2023-24, Budget Statements*, budget paper no. 2, p 594.

⁴⁶ Govt, *Western Australia State Budget 2023-24, Budget Statements*, budget paper no. 2, p 508.

- 5.6 The Committee sought to clarify whether these targets are expected to be met or not with the respective Minister. The Ministers' answers did not assist the matter (see paragraphs 7.8-7.11).
- 5.7 The Committee's recommendation to improve the clarity of key performance indicators in annual reports is equally appropriate for the budget statements.

RECOMMENDATION 2

The Treasurer direct the Department of Treasury to examine the best method for clearly indicating in the budget statements whether a performance target is expected to be met.

Changes to the performance reporting framework

- 5.8 As noted in paragraph 3.4, not all changes to the performance reporting framework were highlighted in the budget statements. For example, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations (Ombudsman) did not disclose the following changes in its budget statement:
- modified the desired outcome
 - added 2 key effectiveness indicators
 - modified the description of its service
 - added one key efficiency indicator.
- 5.9 Conversely, changes to the framework for the Building and Construction Industry Training Board and the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board could not be disclosed in the budget statements, as these entities only show their asset investment program.
- 5.10 The Committee considers changes to the performance reporting framework should be disclosed, as it represents the latest view on how an agency's performance should be assessed.

RECOMMENDATION 3

The Treasurer direct the Department of Treasury to ensure all changes to the performance reporting framework are disclosed in the budget statements.

Payments from special purpose accounts

- 5.11 The new disclosures for special purposes accounts noted in paragraph 5.1 mean payments from these accounts can be seen as a source of funding in agency financial statements. Payments from these accounts generally align with those shown in individual agency statements. For example, the payments from the New Women and Babies Hospital Account can be seen as funding in the WA Health agency financial statements (and that those payments will be used to fund the asset investment program). It is less readily apparent for those special purpose accounts that provide funds to more than one agency.
- 5.12 The Committee sought a breakdown of payments from the Digital Capability Fund; the Climate Action Fund; and the Remote Communities Fund by agency and program.
- 5.13 The information provided generally aligned with the other published data. The Committee was unable to confirm the payments received by the Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia, which only disclosed its asset investment program, or the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation, as it was not separately identified in its administered transactions.

- 5.14 The Committee considers there is value in disclosing special purpose account spending by agency and program, as it allows readers to understand what the agency was provided and the intended purpose of that funding. This is especially the case if the number of special purpose accounts or amount of funds provided through special purpose accounts is expected to increase. The Committee notes that it may generate a number of data heavy tables. These tables could be made available on the budget website and need not form part of the budget papers.

RECOMMENDATION 4

The Treasurer direct the Department of Treasury to publish a breakdown of payments from Treasurer's special purpose accounts by agency and program on the budget website.

Grouping of oversight and integrity bodies

- 5.15 The budget papers and the Appropriation Acts group various bodies into Parts. For example, the 'financial administration' part groups the Department of Treasury, Western Australian Treasury Corporation, Office of the Auditor General, Department of Finance, and Insurance Commission of Western Australia.
- 5.16 On what determines where an agency will be grouped, the Treasurer advised:
- Divisions in Budget Paper No. 2: Budget Statements (and reflected in the Schedules supporting the Appropriation Bills) are informed by the List of the Administration of Department, Authorities, Statutes and Votes. The divisions are grouped in Parts in Budget Paper No. 2 (which also flows through to the Appropriation Bills). The Parts contain agencies grouped by a broadly complementary service focus. Arrangement in this manner has been used since the presentation of the 2018-19 Budget. The original grouping under specific Parts was a policy decision of the Government, taken at the time of preparing the 2018-19 Budget. No formal guidelines for grouping under specific Parts have been prepared.⁴⁷
- 5.17 The budget papers and the Appropriation Acts group the various oversight and integrity bodies into the following Parts:

Table 4. *Oversight and integrity bodies by Part*

Agency	Part
Commissioner for Children and Young People	Government administration
Corruption and Crime Commission	Community safety
Office of the Auditor General	Financial administration
Office of the Information Commissioner	Government administration
Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services	Community safety
Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations	Parliament
Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission	Community safety

[Source: Govt, *Western Australia State Budget 2023-24, Budget Statements*, budget paper no. 2, 11 May 2023, p i-ii.]

- 5.18 These bodies are subject to some form of direct parliamentary oversight. For example, the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission oversees the Corruption

⁴⁷ Answer to question prior to hearing 7a asked by the Committee and answered by Hon Rita Saffioti MLA, Treasurer, 27 June 2023, pp 2-3.

and Crime Commission and the Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission. The Office of the Auditor General has a reporting relationship with the Legislative Assembly Public Accounts Committee, this Committee and the Joint Standing Committee on Audit.

- 5.19 The Committee considers these entities should be grouped in the budget papers and Appropriation Bills as a standalone Part (Oversight and Integrity), in the same way that the utilities are grouped together.

RECOMMENDATION 5

The Treasurer direct the Department of Treasury to group oversight and integrity bodies as a standalone Part in the budget papers and Appropriation Bills.

Adjusted total cost of services

- 5.20 Agencies provide 2 different breakdowns of the total cost of services—spending on services (what is being delivered) and spending on inputs (such as employee expenses, accommodation etc)—which provides 2 alternate approaches for examining movements in spending over time. An extract of those 2 breakdowns is shown in Figures 3 and 4.

Figure 3. *Service summary, Department of the Legislative Council*

Expense	2021-22 Actual \$'000	2022-23 Budget \$'000	2022-23 Estimated Actual \$'000	2023-24 Budget Year \$'000	2024-25 Outyear \$'000	2025-26 Outyear \$'000	2026-27 Outyear \$'000
1. Support the Chamber Operations of the Legislative Council	2,068	1,987	2,065	2,116	2,156	2,170	2,210
2. Support the Committees of the Legislative Council	3,345	4,227	4,386	3,963	3,744	3,773	3,854
3. Other Services ^(a)	1,212	1,149	1,149	1,149	1,149	1,048	1,048
4. Salaries and Allowances Act 1975	13,284	13,549	13,549	13,595	13,597	13,983	14,333
Total Cost of Services	19,909	20,912	21,149	20,823	20,646	20,974	21,445

(a) Other Services comprises of cost of services provided free of charge by the Parliamentary Services Department, and Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) grant expense.

[Source: Govt, *Western Australia State Budget 2023-24, Budget Statements*, budget paper no. 2, 11 May 2023, p 30.]

Figure 4. *Income statement (controlled), Department of the Legislative Council (excerpt)*

	2021-22 Actual \$'000	2022-23 Budget \$'000	2022-23 Estimated Actual \$'000	2023-24 Budget Year \$'000	2024-25 Outyear \$'000	2025-26 Outyear \$'000	2026-27 Outyear \$'000
COST OF SERVICES							
Expenses							
Employee benefits ^(b)	16,908	17,751	17,988	18,097	18,261	18,684	19,149
Grants and subsidies ^(c)	101	101	101	101	101	-	-
Supplies and services	2,360	2,315	2,315	2,291	2,174	2,180	2,181
Accommodation	434	635	635	224	-	-	-
Depreciation and amortisation	17	17	17	17	17	17	17
Finance and interest costs	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
Other expenses	88	91	91	91	91	91	96
TOTAL COST OF SERVICES	19,909	20,912	21,149	20,823	20,646	20,974	21,445

[Source: Govt, *Western Australia State Budget 2023-24, Budget Statements*, budget paper no. 2, 11 May 2023, p 32.]

- 5.21 The data can be used to explain what underpins the expected decline in total spending in 2023-24 relative to 2022-23 (down \$326,000). The service summary indicates that the amount spent on the 'Support the Committees of the Legislative Council' service will decline

by \$423,000. The other spending data shows accommodation spending will decline by \$411,000 over the same period.⁴⁸

5.22 The Commissioner of Main Roads (Main Roads) and the Western Australian Police Force (Police) adjust their service summary data. The Police presents the service summary first and then adjustments, while Main Roads presents adjustments first and then the service summary.

5.23 The Police presentation is as follows:

Figure 5. *Service summary, Western Australia Police Force*

Expense	2021-22 Actual \$'000	2022-23 Budget \$'000	2022-23 Estimated Actual \$'000	2023-24 Budget Year \$'000	2024-25 Outyear \$'000	2025-26 Outyear \$'000	2026-27 Outyear \$'000
1. Metropolitan Policing Services.....	578,522	598,685	622,245	631,431	643,311	653,970	668,162
2. Regional and Remote Policing Services	469,612	488,540	505,695	548,126	545,014	552,694	563,376
3. Specialist Policing Services.....	608,622	625,404	663,888	619,386	632,768	642,645	656,671
4. Road Safety Commission.....	58,761	79,293	77,294	93,940	85,618	84,987	84,994
Total Cost of Services	1,715,517	1,791,922	1,869,122	1,892,883	1,906,711	1,934,296	1,973,203

[Source: Govt, *Western Australia State Budget 2023-24, Budget Statements*, budget paper no. 2, 11 May 2023, p 403.]

Figure 6. *Total cost of services – Reconciliation table, Western Australia Police Force*

Expense	2021-22 Actual \$'000	2022-23 Budget \$'000	2022-23 Estimated Actual \$'000	2023-24 Budget Year \$'000	2024-25 Outyear \$'000	2025-26 Outyear \$'000	2026-27 Outyear \$'000
Total Cost of Service	1,715,517	1,791,922	1,869,122	1,892,883	1,906,711	1,934,296	1,973,203
Less: RTTA Grants to Other Entities ^(a)	41,020	52,047	50,918	58,218	52,302	52,209	52,026
Adjusted Total Cost of Services.....	1,674,497	1,739,875	1,818,204	1,834,665	1,854,409	1,882,087	1,921,177

(a) The Western Australia Police Force distributes RTTA grants to other government agencies, local government and non-government organisations. These grants are included in Service 4 in the Service Summary table.

[Source: Govt, *Western Australia State Budget 2023-24, Budget Statements*, budget paper no. 2, 11 May 2023, p 403.]

5.24 The Police approach separately identifies and removes the grants from the Road Trauma Trust Account to other entities. It indicates that these grants are part of the Road Safety Commission spending. Given the data shown, the reader could calculate that less than half of the growth in Road Safety Commission spending in 2023-24 is due to higher grants payments to other entities.

5.25 As service summary is unadjusted, readers may also examine spending on inputs to see what underpins movements in total spending.

⁴⁸ The spending changes table indicates the 'transfer of accommodation to the Parliamentary Services Department' will result in a \$410,000 decline in expenses relative to the 2022-23 Budget (Govt, *Western Australia State Budget 2023-24, Budget Statements*, budget paper no. 2, 11 May 2023, p 29).

5.26 The Main Roads presentation is as follows:

Figure 7. *Adjustments to spending on services, Commissioner of Main Roads*

Expense	2021-22 Actual \$'000	2022-23 Budget \$'000	2022-23 Estimated Actual \$'000	2023-24 Budget Year \$'000	2024-25 Outyear \$'000	2025-26 Outyear \$'000	2026-27 Outyear \$'000
Total Cost of Services	1,565,499	1,713,561	2,004,239	2,149,159	1,811,215	1,664,745	1,582,353
<i>Add:</i>							
Road Infrastructure Capital Works ^(a)	1,765,454	2,021,148	2,164,342	2,286,205	1,857,968	1,418,575	922,715
<i>Less:</i>							
Local Government Network Expenditure							
State Road Funds to Local Government							
Agreement	(224,071)	(233,845)	(239,339)	(252,594)	(263,729)	(275,442)	(287,676)
Non-cash Expenditure							
Road Infrastructure Depreciation ^(b)	(450,214)	(487,193)	(487,330)	(632,897)	(607,492)	(610,844)	(611,387)
Road Transfers and Retirements ^(c)	(66,185)	(111,047)	(111,047)	(172,974)	(60,684)	(91,844)	(24,913)
Adjusted Total Cost of Services.....	2,590,483	2,902,624	3,330,865	3,376,899	2,737,278	2,105,190	1,581,092

(a) Road Infrastructure Capital Works reflects road works expenditure capitalised to infrastructure which is not reflected in the Income Statement in accordance with AASB 1055: *Budgetary Reporting*.

(b) Road Infrastructure Depreciation includes amortisation of intangibles.

(c) Road Transfers and Retirements reflects retired non-current fixed assets expense and expenditure related to non-current fixed assets transferred to local authorities, both of which are non-cash transactions.

[Source: Govt, *Western Australia State Budget 2023-24, Budget Statements*, budget paper no. 2, 11 May 2023, p 593.]

5.27 On an unadjusted basis, the total cost of services will increase from \$1.6 billion in 2021-22 to \$2.1 billion in 2023-24, and then decline to \$1.6 billion in 2026-17. These movements could be explained by examining spending on inputs.

5.28 On an adjusted basis, Main Roads will increase its spending from \$2.6 billion in 2021-22 to \$3.4 billion in 2023-24 and then more than halve by 2026-27, with these movements mostly explained by changes in Road Infrastructure Capital Works (the asset investment program).

Figure 8. *Services summary, Commissioner of Main Roads*

Expense	2021-22 Actual \$'000	2022-23 Budget \$'000	2022-23 Estimated Actual \$'000	2023-24 Budget Year \$'000	2024-25 Outyear \$'000	2025-26 Outyear \$'000	2026-27 Outyear \$'000
1. Infrastructure for State Development ^(a)	524,262	523,127	497,335	578,202	778,337	574,791	321,248
2. Road Network Maintenance ^(b)	467,680	453,704	562,625	421,266	385,167	351,493	337,237
3. Road Safety ^(c)	333,814	368,828	412,880	343,711	349,988	156,230	142,353
4. Infrastructure for Community Access	143,984	218,518	234,260	192,745	143,448	94,029	166,919
5. Road System Management	164,498	172,161	196,663	233,063	180,187	201,997	167,523
6. Road Efficiency Improvements ^(d)	956,245	1,166,286	1,427,102	1,607,912	900,151	726,650	445,812
Total Cost of Services	2,590,483	2,902,624	3,330,865	3,376,899	2,737,278	2,105,190	1,581,092

(a) The reduction in Infrastructure for State Development between the 2025-26 and 2026-27 Outyears is mainly due to the forecast completion of a number of major projects including the Manuwarra Red Dog Highway, and Reid Highway - Altone Road and Daviot Road/Drumpellier Drive grade separations projects in 2026.

(b) Variations in Road Network Maintenance expenditure is primarily due to natural disaster repairs on the State network, third party funded works and bridge works.

(c) Road Safety expenditure over 2021-22 to 2024-25 includes the Commonwealth and State-funded Regional Road Safety Program, including assumed funding for the program's continuation in 2024-25.

(d) The increase in Road Efficiency Improvements in the 2023-24 Budget Year is mainly due to the construction of the Bunbury Outer Ring Road, which is scheduled for completion in late 2024.

[Source: Govt, *Western Australia State Budget 2023-24, Budget Statements*, budget paper no. 2, 11 May 2023, p 593.]

5.29 For example, adjusted spending on road efficiency improvements declines from \$1.6 billion in 2023-24 to \$445.8 million by 2026-27. It is not clear whether that decline is due to less spending on recurrent or capital projects.

5.30 The table does not reflect that the total cost of services is adjusted. Presenting service-level spending on an adjusted basis removes the value of having 2 alternate, yet equally valid, ways to understand movements in an agency's recurrent spending.

RECOMMENDATION 6

The Minister for Transport direct the Commissioner of Main Roads to adopt the Western Australia Police Force approach for presenting adjusted service-level spending data.

Agencies with statutory authorities

- 5.31 The budget papers and Appropriation Bills consolidate certain related statutory authorities within a department. For example, the Department of Communities comprises the department, the Disability Services Commission and the Housing Authority.
- 5.32 There is a different practice for consolidating certain health bodies, which are presented as 'WA Health' in the budget papers and the Appropriations Bills, rather than the 'Department of Health'. This different practice may confuse new readers.

RECOMMENDATION 7

The Treasurer direct the Department of Treasury to refer to 'WA Health' as the 'Department of Health' in future budget papers and Appropriation Bills.

- 5.33 The consolidated entity presents a single set of financial and non-performance information. For the financial statements, financial transactions between the combined entities are eliminated.⁴⁹ For service-level spending and key performance indicators, these may either relate to individual entities or be grouped (if more than one entity delivers the service or reports against those indicators).
- 5.34 Each body within the consolidated entity will produce a separate annual report, with financial and non-financial performance information also separated.
- 5.35 It is not always clear which agencies are included into the broader 'department' umbrella at budget-time. The Committee considers that each consolidated department should list the component entities. This would be best placed under the department title and before the Part or the table on Appropriations, Expenses and Cash Assets in the budget statements.

RECOMMENDATION 8

The Treasurer direct the Department of Treasury to require entities consolidated at budget-time to list their component entities in the budget statements.

- 5.36 WA Health identifies which health service providers report against certain key effectiveness indicators. For example, the key effectiveness indicator on 'percentage of elective waitlist patients waiting over boundary for reportable procedures' is reported by the North Metropolitan Health Service, the South Metropolitan Health Service, East Metropolitan Health Service, Child and Adolescent Health Service and the Western Australian Country Health Service.
- 5.37 The Committee considers that each consolidated department should specify whether certain services or key performance indicators relate to a specific entity (or multiple entities). This would improve transparency and accountability.

⁴⁹ Entities that comprise a consolidated entity may be required to prepare separate annual estimates, and publish those estimates in their annual report or on their website.

RECOMMENDATION 9

The Treasurer direct the Department of Treasury to require entities consolidated at budget-time to disclose where particular services or key performance indicators are performed by a component entity in the budget statements.

6 Observations on the process

- 6.1 Although the Committee is generally satisfied with its processes for considering the 2023-24 estimates, this section will reflect on aspects of those processes that did not run as smoothly as intended and whether those processes should be changed for its consideration of the 2024-25 estimates. Issues relating to the provision of information will be discussed in section 7.

Preliminary round of evidence gathering

- 6.2 The Committee usually collects evidence for its consideration of the estimates in 3 stages—questions prior to hearing, hearings, and additional questions. This year, the Committee wrote to the Treasurer prior to the Budget being released seeking information on a number of matters.⁵⁰ The Committee intended to use this information to identify potential areas of interest, and prepare targeted follow-up questions as part of the questions prior process.
- 6.3 The preliminary request for information was only partly effective. The Treasurer's response arrived too late to have follow-up questions included as questions prior⁵¹ and some of the requested information was not provided.⁵² The Committee sought the missing information from relevant Ministers, through a separate process, and the Treasurer, through the additional questions process.
- 6.4 The Treasurer should expect a similar letter in the future and recommends the Department of Treasury develop appropriate systems to ensure the requested information can be provided on budget day, in order to facilitate more targeted Committee questions. In addition, if Recommendation 4 of this report is not supported, the Committee may seek data on payments from Treasurer's special purpose accounts by agency and by program/project.

⁵⁰ The Committee sought a summary of major variations for each appropriation bill since the 2022-23 Budget; a list of all changes to the outcomes based management framework for all agencies since the 2022-23 Budget; a list of all spending that are subject to a sunset clause and/or program evaluation; an update on the program evaluations from the previous budget estimates rounds; a list of all agencies that are or will be required to prepare a section 40 under the *Financial Management Act 2006*. The Committee has asked for a number of these as part of questions prior to hearings in previous estimates rounds.

⁵¹ The Committee requested the information by 15 May 2023 and received the Treasurer's response on 31 May 2023. The deadline for questions prior to hearing was 23 May 2023.

⁵² The Treasurer provided a list of agencies that changed their outcomes based management framework; a list of spending changes that are subject to a sunset clause and/or program evaluation; and an indicative list of agencies to prepare annual estimates (Hon Mark McGowan MLA, Premier; Treasurer, letter, 31 May 2023).

RECOMMENDATION 10

The Treasurer direct the Department of Treasury to develop appropriate systems for ensuring it can readily provide:

- all changes to the outcomes based management framework since the previous budget
- a list of all spending changes in the budget that are subject to a sunset clause and/or program evaluation and the timeframes for evaluation
- an update on all program evaluations from previous budget estimates rounds.

Questions from participating Members

- 6.5 Participating Members play an important role in the Committee's evidence gathering process, and scrutinising the operations of Government and its agencies. In this round, the following issues became apparent:
- information shown in the spending changes and net appropriations determinations tables is misunderstood
 - questions framed in political terms or that reflect on personal views tend to get political responses
 - multi-part questions tend to result in poor answers and/or the need to repeat parts of the question.
- 6.6 The Committee considers the estimates process works best if the questions prior round is used to obtain relevant data, and the hearings and/or additional rounds are to follow-up and clarify how that data should be used.
- 6.7 Members may benefit from reviewing the 'Readers Guide to the Budget Papers', which is updated each budget, and Committee report 76, which examined the spending changes table.⁵³
- 6.8 An earlier membership of this Committee reflected on the interplay between Members' questions and Ministers' answers, noting:
- The Committee acknowledges that Ministers need to answer questions succinctly, however, it is of the view that the type of question asked will determine the type of answer given, that is, questions of fact will generally elicit a factual answer, and questions of a political nature will generally draw a political response.⁵⁴
- This observation remains current.
- 6.9 Members often ask questions in hearings that have multiple parts. The risk to this approach is that witnesses may not remember each part, leading to repetition, or just answer those components that are readily available or preferable to answer. Each part need not be asked at once—the hearings allow for a dialogue between the Member and the witness.

⁵³ Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations, report 76, *2018-19 Budget Cycle – Part 1: Estimates hearings and related matters*, Western Australia, Legislative Council, 20 September 2021, pp 13-14.

⁵⁴ Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations, report 10, *Annual hearings in relation to the Budget Estimates 2007/08*, Western Australia, Legislative Council, 27 September 2007, p 8.

Non-appearance at hearings

- 6.10 The Committee requested the Chief Assessor, Office of Criminal Injuries Compensation, appear at the Department of Justice hearing on 16 June 2023. The Chief Assessor did not attend.
- 6.11 The Committee resolved to hold another hearing on 9 August 2023, and requested the Chief Assessor (and the Director General) appear. The Chief Assessor advised:
- I have been informed an invitation to attend the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations in August 2023 has been extended to me through the Deputy Director General of Court and Tribunal Services and thank you for the invitation.
- However, I decline the invitation as the business of the Standing Committee is not within the ambit of the operations, roles and responsibilities of the Chief Assessor as set out in the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 2003*.⁵⁵
- 6.12 At the second hearing, Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC, Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney General noted the Chief Assessor's absence and explained:
- the chief assessor is an independent statutory officer and neither the Attorney General nor the department of Justice or the director general can direct the chief assessor to attend hearings, and so the chief assessor has made her own decision not to attend the hearing today.
- ...
- a criminal injuries assessor ... is an independent function of the executive government ... and it quasi-judicial in its nature.⁵⁶
- 6.13 The Committee notes the Chief Assessor's position, but is disappointed by the non-appearance. While the Committee was able to obtain some of the information sought at the hearing, it has resolved to pursue its inquiries further with the Chief Assessor.

Ministers to redirect questions

- 6.14 Participating Members and the Committee submit questions to agencies. For agencies that report to multiple Ministers, the Committee attempts to allocate those questions to the appropriate Minister.⁵⁷ The Committee also sends the questions to agencies directly, in order to provide them with as much time possible to prepare an answer for the Minister to approve. Sometimes questions are directed to agencies and Ministers that are not best placed to provide an answer.
- 6.15 Ministers are required to redirect questions to another Minister and to indicate in their answer that a question was redirected to them or by them.⁵⁸ Redirections are not happening automatically, with the answer provided advising that the question should be redirected.⁵⁹ This may increase the time taken before the Committee receives an answer to the question,

⁵⁵ Charmaine Holyoak-Roberts, Chief Assessor of Criminal Injuries Compensation, letter, 3 August 2023.

⁵⁶ Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC, Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney General, Department of Justice, *transcript of evidence*, 9 August 2023, pp 2 & 4.

⁵⁷ The Committee allocates questions on whole-of-agency matters to the coordinating Minister (as advised by the Premier early in each estimates round).

⁵⁸ Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations, *2023-24 Budget Estimates—Procedure Policy*, May 2023, pp 1-3.

⁵⁹ For example, the Committee was advised as recently as 14 August 2023 that answers to some questions on notice will need to be redirected. The answers to question on notice were due on 26 July 2023.

as the Minister that receives the question will often need a new due date to provide the answer.

- 6.16 For agencies with multiple Ministers, the Committee will now provide all questions to the coordinating Minister to redirect. This should reduce the time spent trying to determine which Minister it should go to in the first instance, and the likelihood of redirections between the responsible Ministers. The Committee notes that it will not reduce redirections that need to occur because the question was submitted to the wrong agency.

7 Provision of information

- 7.1 The Committee's ability to scrutinise Government and its agencies is affected by the quality and quantity of information made available for that purpose. The Committee made recommendations to improve the quality and quantity of information in sections 4 and 5 of this report. This section focuses on Ministers' decisions not to provide certain information to the Committee during the inquiry and the quality of certain answers.

Ministerial decisions to not provide information

- 7.2 Ministers declined to provide information to the Committee on 59 occasions in the course of this inquiry. These occasions and the reasons for non-provision are set out in Table 9 in Appendix 2. Some of the reasons provided for non-provision was the information was Cabinet-in-confidence, commercial-in-confidence or too resource-intensive to collate.
- 7.3 Western Australia has a legislated provision for managing occasions of Ministerial non-provision of information. The relevant provision states:

82. Ministerial decisions not to give Parliament certain information about agency to be reported to Parliament etc.

- (1) If the Minister decides that it is reasonable and appropriate not to provide to Parliament certain information concerning any conduct or operation of an agency, then within 14 days after making the decision the Minister is to cause written notice of the decisions —
- (a) to be laid before each House of Parliament or dealt with under section 83; and
 - (b) to be given to the Auditor General.
- (2) A notice under subsection (1)(a) is to include the Minister's reasons for making the decision that is subject of the notice.⁶⁰

- 7.4 There is a complementary obligation on the Auditor General to form an opinion on 'whether a decision by a Minister not to provide information to Parliament concerning any conduct or operation of an agency is reasonable and appropriate' and report that opinion to both Houses of Parliament.⁶¹

⁶⁰ *Financial Management Act 2006* s 82.

⁶¹ *Auditor General Act 2006* s 24.

- 7.5 The Committee is concerned that occasions of non-provision of information have not resulted in notices to Parliament. The Committee notes the:
- last notices were tabled in the Legislative Council on 14 February 2023⁶²
 - last notice arising from the Committee's estimates process was tabled in the Legislative Council on 16 August 2022.⁶³
 - last Auditor General's report on non-provision was tabled in the Legislative Council on 28 March 2023.⁶⁴

RECOMMENDATION 11

Ministers listed in Table 9 notify the Parliament and Auditor General of their decision to not provide certain information to the Committee.

- 7.6 The Committee may need to revisit its procedures to ensure that requested information is provided and Ministers are aware of their obligations under the *Financial Management Act 2006*. The Committee will amend the Procedure Policy to require Ministers to indicate whether a notice will be tabled each time they decide not to provide requested information.

Quality of answers provided by Ministers

- 7.7 The Committee was disappointed by some of the answers it received. This section provides 3 examples.

Ambiguous key performance indicators

- 7.8 The Committee sought to understand whether 2 key effectiveness indicators—the Commissioner of Main Roads indicator on 'black spot location' and the Department of Communities indicator on 'responsiveness – total housing assistance provided relative to the public rental waiting list'—were expected to be met in 2022-23.

- 7.9 The Minister for Transport advised:

Full verified audited details will be published in the Main Roads 2024 Annual Report.⁶⁵

- 7.10 The Minister for Housing; Homelessness advised:

The State Government is investing \$2.6 billion in social housing and homelessness measures over the forward estimates. Included in this investment is the addition of 4,000 social housing dwellings.

There is a link between a tight private rental market and the number of applications for social housing. Many people seek the safety net of public housing when there is significant pressure in the private rental market.⁶⁶

⁶² Tabled Papers 1950 & 1965-1967, Legislative Council, 14 February 2023. Three notices were tourism-related and one notice related to the Midland Landgate building.

⁶³ Tabled Paper 1480, Legislative Council, 16 August 2023. The Hon Martin Aldridge MLC sought the business case for the Meekatharra Hospital and the Tom Price Hospital Redevelopment.

⁶⁴ Tabled Paper 2113, Legislative Council, 28 March 2023.

⁶⁵ Answer to additional question 1 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon Rita Saffioti MLA, Minister for Transport, 11 August 2023, p 1.

⁶⁶ Answer to additional question 3 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon Jon Carey MLA, Minister for Housing, 1 August 2023, p 1.

- 7.11 Neither response indicated whether the key effectiveness indicator was expected to be met. A yes or no response would have been sufficient in this instance.

Adjusted total cost of services

- 7.12 As part of its consideration of the 2021-22 annual reports, the Committee noted the Minister for Transport only answered one part of the Committee's question on unadjusted spending on services for the Commissioner of Main Roads. The Committee asked a near identical question as an additional question:

We refer to Budget Paper No. 2, page 593, Service summary.

- a) Can this table be provided on an unadjusted basis;
- b) If no to (a), the Committee understands that it received unadjusted data as part of the 2019-20 Budget estimates process.
 - i) Please confirm if this is correct
 - ii) If yes to (i), why is unadjusted data no longer able to be provided?

- 7.13 The Minister provided a table that partially answered part a) and did not address part b) of the question.⁶⁷

Breach of Surveillance Devices Regulations 1999

- 7.14 A Member sought information on the breach of the Surveillance Devices Regulations 1999 by Main Roads.

Hon NICK GOIRAN: Minister, the context is that the Auditor General has just established that there has been a major breach of the Surveillance Devices Regulations 1999 and that Main Roads have been aware of that since 2016.

...

Why was the Minister for Transport, who has responsibility here, not informed until such time as the Auditor General's report was tabled?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: I do not know; we will have to take that on notice.

Hon NICK GOIRAN: On what date was the minister informed by Main Roads of the concerns by the Auditor General, in what form did that communication take place and will you table it if it was in a documentary form?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: I am happy to take that on notice at the same item.

- 7.15 The Minister advised:

I reject the premise of the question. The Office of the Auditor General did not establish the use of traffic monitoring devices as a "major breach" of the *Surveillance Devices Regulations 1999*.⁶⁸

- 7.16 None of the requested information was provided.

⁶⁷ Answer to additional question 2 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon Rita Saffioti MLA, Minister for Transport, 11 August 2023, p 1.

⁶⁸ Answer to question on notice A6 asked by Hon Nick Goiran MLC and answered by Hon Rita Saffioti MLA, Minister for Transport, 19 July 2023, p 9.

8 Conclusion

- 8.1 The 2023-24 Budget outlines the Government's priorities for the budget year and the next 3 financial years. The budget papers also provide some insight on how the State and agencies are expected to perform in 2022-23, which will be confirmed with the release of the *Annual Report on State Finances* and agency annual reports.
- 8.2 The Committee continued its practice of examining changes to the Appropriation Acts and the performance management framework, and seeking an update on spending changes subject to a sunset clause or program evaluation. A number of program evaluations are expected to have been completed in 2022-23.
- 8.3 This year's report highlights the Public Sector Commission's program of agency capability reviews, the Government's decision to establish a new special purpose account—the Asset Maintenance Fund—and provide additional funding for the Climate Action Fund and Social Housing Investment Fund special purpose accounts, and matters marked confidential in the Budget.
- 8.4 The Committee is satisfied that its consideration of the 2023-24 estimates positively contributed to the scrutiny of Government and its operations. The Committee thanks all Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries, witnesses and public officials, and participating Members for their assistance.



Hon Peter Collier MLC
Chair

APPENDIX 1

PROGRAM EVALUATION

Table 5. *Spending changes subject to a sunset clause and program evaluation*

Agency/measure	2022-23 \$'000	2023-24 \$'000	2024-25 \$'000	2025-26 \$'000	2026-27 \$'000	Total \$'000
Department of Health						
Mental Health Patient Transport ⁶⁹	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Continuation of Medical Respite Centre Services*	-	1,500	700	-	-	2,200
Regional Cancer Services*	-	6,300	-	-	-	6,300
Community Health in a Virtual Environment*	-	3,448	-	-	-	3,448
Integrated Older Adults Model of Care at NMHS*	998	2,931	-	-	-	3,929
Emergency Access Response Program*	-	4,100	4,100	-	-	8,200
State Health Operation Centre^	-	5,959	-	-	-	5,959
Public Health Resourcing^	-	6,565	-	-	-	6,565
Mental Health Commission						
Infants, Children and Adolescents Taskforce						
Bunbury Mental Health Service Hub Pilot^	-	1,854	2,602	2,685	-	7,141
East Metropolitan Acute Care Response Team Pilot^	-	706	1,441	1,473	-	3,620
Community Treatment Uplift*	-	7,969	-	-	-	7,969
Suicide Prevention*	-	-	9,828	-	-	9,828
Active Recovery Team Pilot Extension*	-	9,917	-	-	-	9,917
Community Contracts Uplift*	4,662	4,749	-	-	-	9,411

⁶⁹ The measure is not separately listed in the budget papers.

Agency/measure	2022-23 \$'000	2023-24 \$'000	2024-25 \$'000	2025-26 \$'000	2026-27 \$'000	Total \$'000
Department of Communities						
Geraldton Aboriginal Short Stay Accommodation Operational Funding*	-	-	2,300	2,512	3,508	8,320
East Perth Common Ground Operational Funding*	-	-	1,341	2,474	3,092	6,907
Department of Justice						
Casuarina Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Program Extension ⁺	-	5,979	-	-	-	5,979
Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy [^]	-	3,701	5,397	-	-	9,098

[Source: Hon Mark McGowan MLA, Premier; Treasurer, letter, Attachment A & Govt, *Western Australia State Budget 2023-24, Budget Statements*, budget paper no. 2, 11 May 2023, pp 295-296, 322-323, 416, 502.]

* Ongoing initiative

+ Election commitment

[^] New initiative

Table 6. *Update on program evaluations*

Agency/measure	Treasury response
Department of Communities	
Aboriginal Community Connectors Program*	Evaluation is being conducted by the Department of Treasury and expected to be finalised by the end of 2022.
Aboriginal Representative Organisations (\$1.6 million, 2021-22 to 2023-24)	The evaluation is expected to commence in the second half of 2023 following completion of the pilot program.
Family and Domestic Violence One-Stop Hub Armadale (\$14.7 million, 2021-22 to 2025-26)	The evaluation of this program is expected to be undertaken in 2024-25.
Harmful Sexual Behaviour Intervention Program (\$6 million, 2022-23 to 2024-25)	The evaluation of this program is expected to commence in the second half of 2023 and be finalised by the end of 2025.
Home Stretch WA expansion*	Evaluation planning has commenced with the final evaluation report expected in the second half of 2024.
Regional Family and Domestic Violence Services in the Kimberley (\$4.5 million, 2022-23 to 2025-26)	The evaluation of this program is expected to commence in 2024-25.
Target 120 Expansion (\$11.1 million, 2022-23 to 2023-24)	Evaluation is currently being conducted by the Department of Communities, in consultation with the Department of Treasury, and is expected to be finalised by the end of 2023.

Agency/measure	Treasury response
Department of Health	
Aboriginal Health Practitioners (AHP) in the WA Health Workforce (\$3.7 million, 2022-23 to 2023-24)	An evaluation is currently being scoped by the Project Control Group and is anticipated to be completed in the second half of 2024.
Mental Health Patient Transport (\$2.8 million, 2022-23)	The evaluation commenced in May 2023 and is scheduled for completion in early 2024. An evaluation plan and timeline have been developed and data collection has commenced.
Long Stay Patient Initiatives	
Disability Transition Pilots (\$7.7 million, 2022-23 to 2023-24)	An independent evaluation is underway. The final evaluation report is expected to be available in the second half of 2023.
Long Stay Patient Fund (\$5.8 million, 2022-23 to 2023-24)	Ongoing monitoring is in place and an internal evaluation is expected to be completed in the second half of 2023.
Virtual Emergency Medicine (\$10.5 million, 2022-23 to 2023-24)	<p>Community Health in a Virtual Environment, Emergency Care Navigator and Virtual Emergency Medicine are being monitored monthly by the Ambulance Ramping Ministerial Taskforce.</p> <p>A formal evaluation of each model will be undertaken in the second half of 2023.</p>
Department of Justice	
Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy*	Evaluation planning has commenced. The evaluation will be undertaken by the Western Australian Office of Crime Statistics and Research, in partnership with a culturally responsive organisation. The evaluation is expected to be completed in 2022-23.
Olabud Doogethu Halls Creek Youth Justice Reinvestment*	This project will be evaluated in 2022-23 as part of the wider Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy.
Western Desert Justice Program*	Evaluation will be undertaken by the Western Australian Office of Crime Statistics and Research, in partnership with Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa, and is expected to commence before the end of 2022-23. The evaluation report is expected to be completed in 2023-24. Consideration of further funding from 2024-25 onwards will be sought pending evaluation outcomes.

Agency/measure	Treasury response
Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries	
Banned Drinkers Register (BDR) and Takeaway Alcohol Management System (TAMS) (\$13.5 million, 2022-23 and 2026-27)	<p>On 2 March 2023, the Minister announced legislative changes to the BDR program following an initial evaluation and consultation process.</p> <p>It is expected that the Liquor Control Amendment (Banned Drinkers Register) Bill 2023 will be proclaimed by September 2023.</p> <p>A comprehensive evaluation process will be undertaken within two years of the commencement of enhanced trials.</p>
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development	
WA Agricultural Research Collaboration (\$25 million, 2022-23 to 2024-25)	<p>A formal monitoring and evaluation framework will be implemented by December 2023. Each funded project will have a program plan with key deliverables and milestones that will be monitored and evaluated.</p> <p>DPIRD will report back on participant contributions, leveraging ratios and workforce at the 2024-25 Budget process.</p>
Mental Health Commission	
Investing in Aboriginal Social and Emotional Wellbeing*	An evaluation process will be undertaken to better inform further decision-making with an interim report in late 2023.
Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions	
Perth Children's Court Early Resolution (\$3.5 million, 2021-22 to 2025-26)	Program data collection is currently in progress, with the evaluation expected to be undertaken in 2024-25.
Public Transport Authority of Western Australia	
CAT Bus Service Extension Trial*	<p>Revised Red and Blue CAT bus services were implemented on 5 December 2021 and 27 February 2022 respectively. The Public Transport Authority monitors patronage and customer comments on a monthly basis and anticipates preparation of an evaluation report by mid-2023.</p>

[Source: Answer to additional question 1 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon Rita Saffioti MLA, Treasurer, 27 July 2023, pp 1-2 & Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations, report 87, *Consideration of the 2022-23 Budget Estimates*, Western Australia, Legislative Council, October 2022, p 7.]

* Program listed in Report 87.

APPENDIX 2

CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS IN THE 2023-24 BUDGET

Tjiwarl Palyakuwa Indigenous Land Use Agreement

- 2.1 The Departments of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions; Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety; Planning, Lands and Heritage; Primary Industries and Regional Development; and the Premier and Cabinet did not disclose the financial impact of the Indigenous Land Use Agreement in their spending changes table. The spending change was footnoted as follows:

The ILUA [Agreement] remains confidential until it is conclusively registered in accordance with its terms. It is anticipated conclusive registration will occur in late May 2023.⁷⁰

- 2.2 The Agreement was signed on 22 May 2023, and the expected financial impact on each agency at budget-time is shown in the table below.

Table 7. *Tjiwarl Palyakuwa Indigenous Land Use Agreement, spending by agency at budget-time, 2022-23 to 2026-27*

	2022-23 \$'000	2023-24 \$'000	2024-25 \$'000	2025-26 \$'000	2026-27 \$'000
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions	1,375	3,785	1,732	1,775	1,820
Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety	30	124	89	-	-
Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage	900	-	-	-	-
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development	439	158	118	-	-
Department of the Premier and Cabinet					
Monetary compensation	18,810	-	-	-	-
Research and Development Fund	1,145	1,145	-	-	-
Economic Empowerment Fund	1,500	1,145	-	-	-
FTE to support implementation	38	151	114	-	-

[Source: Answer to additional question 1 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon Reece Whitby MLA, Minister for Environment; Climate Action, 4 August 2023, p 2; answer to additional question 2 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon Bill Johnston MLA, Minister for Mines and Petroleum, 26 July 2023, p 1; answer to additional question 1 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon Dr Tony Buti MLA, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs (Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage), 26 July 2023, p 1; answer to additional question 2 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon Don Punch MLA, Minister for Regional Development; Fisheries, 2 August 2023, p 3; and answer to additional question 2 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon Dr Tony Buti MLA, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs (Department of the Premier and Cabinet), 26 July 2023, p 1 (Marked as additional question 1 in the response).]

⁷⁰ Govt, *Western Australia State Budget 2023-24, Budget Statements*, budget paper no. 2, 11 May 2023, pp 62, 209, 231, 692 & 714.

- 2.3 The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage was the only department to indicate the financial impact had changed since budget. The \$0.9 million expected to be spent in 2022-23 will now be spent in 2023-24.

Kimberley Housing and Orphan Roads Recovery

- 2.4 The Department of Communities did not disclose the financial impact of the Kimberley Housing and Orphan Roads Recovery in the spending changes table, which was footnoted as 'Confidential – subject to ongoing negotiations with the Commonwealth'.⁷¹

- 2.5 The Minister advised:

At the time of the State Budget, the funding for the Kimberley Housing and Orphan Roads recovery housing repair and rebuild program was still being negotiated with the Commonwealth and as such, in accordance with Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, the year-by-year financial impact was unable to be determined.

Eligible costs will be claimed from the Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements as housing works progress. This funding will be reflected in future budget papers.⁷²

- 2.6 The Minister's response suggests the financial impact was unable to be determined rather than confidential, as originally noted in the budget.

Kimberley Recovery Housing and Community Roads Package

- 2.7 The Department of Planning, Land and Heritage did not disclose the financial impact in the spending changes table, which was footnoted as 'Confidential – subject to ongoing negotiations with the Commonwealth Government'.⁷³ The expected financial impact at budget-time is in the table below.

Table 8. *Kimberley Recovery Housing and Community Roads Package, spending at budget-time, 2022-23 to 2026-27*

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage	98	1,901	2,852	794	-

[Source: Answer to additional question 3 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon John Carey MLA, Minister for Planning; Lands, 25 July 2023, p 2.]

Department of the Premier and Cabinet – Administered transactions – 'all other'

- 2.8 Agencies sometimes manage transactions on behalf of the State of Western Australia. These 'administered' transactions are not under the control of the agency and are disclosed separately in the budget statements. For example, the per capita grants to non-government schools is an administered expense of the Department of Education.⁷⁴
- 2.9 The Department of the Premier and Cabinet showed administered transactions for the Yamatji Nation Alternative Settlement Agreement, Gibson Desert Nature Reserve

⁷¹ Govt, *Western Australia State Budget 2023-24, Budget Statements*, budget paper no. 2, 11 May 2023, pp 501-502.

⁷² Answer to additional question 2 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon John Carey MLA, Minister for Housing, 2 August 2023, p 2.

⁷³ Govt, *Western Australia State Budget 2023-24, Budget Statements*, budget paper no. 2, 11 May 2023, p 714.

⁷⁴ Govt, *Western Australia State Budget 2023-24, Budget Statements*, budget paper no. 2, p 369.

Compensation Agreement, Griffin Coal Financial Assistance Agreement, South West Settlement and 'all other'. The Department expected 'all other' income of \$41.5 million in 2022-23 and \$2.7 million in 2023-24, and 'all other' expenses of \$44.1 million in 2022-23 and \$128,000 in 2023-24. Both 'all other' were footnoted as follows:

Confidential. Includes items subject to finalising commercial arrangements, and/or ongoing negotiations and mediated settlements involving the State.⁷⁵

- 2.10 The Premier advised the '[i]nformation related to 'all other' (income and expenses) remains confidential'.⁷⁶
- 2.11 The matters covered by 'all other' may be disclosed in the Department's 2022-23 annual report. The Committee may revisit the issue as part of its consideration of the 2022-23 annual reports.

Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage – Asset investment program – 'Other new works'

- 2.12 The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage expected to spend \$6.6 million in 2023-24, \$12.0 million in 2024-25 and \$2.8 million in 2025-26 on 'other new works'. These works were footnoted as 'Confidential – subject to ongoing negotiations with the Commonwealth Government'.⁷⁷
- 2.13 The Minister advised the 'negotiations with the Commonwealth Government are now finalised' and the new works related to the Kimberley Recovery Housing and Community Roads Package.⁷⁸

⁷⁵ Govt, *Western Australia State Budget 2023-24, Budget Statements*, budget paper no. 2, 11 May 2023, p 73.

⁷⁶ Answer to additional question 2 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon Roger Cook MLA, Premier, 27 July 2023, p 1.

⁷⁷ Govt, *Western Australia State Budget 2023-24, Budget Statements*, budget paper no. 2, 11 May 2023, p 722.

⁷⁸ Answer to additional question 4 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon John Carey MLA, Minister for Planning; Lands, 25 July 2023, p 3.

APPENDIX 3

OCCASIONS OF NON-PROVISION OF INFORMATION

3.1 Table 9 lists occasions where a Minister decided not to provide requested information to a question prior to hearing, question on notice or additional question, and the reason for non-provision. It does not include occasions:

- of non-provision in hearings, which Members are able to pursue at the time
- where the Minister advised that the information requested does not exist or is not kept by the agencies
- where the Minister advised that the information requested does not yet exist because it is contingent upon an event(s) that is yet to occur.

Table 9. *Occasions of non-provision of information (as at 11 October 2023)*

No.	Minister	Agency	Issue	Basis for non-provision
1.	Finance	Department of Finance	Average and median processing times for approved Building Bonus Homebuyer Grants ⁷⁹	Too resource-intensive
2.	Finance	Department of Finance	Average and median processing times for payments for approved Building Bonus Homebuyer Grants ⁸⁰	Too resource-intensive
3.	Finance	Department of Finance	Building Bonus Homebuyer Grants – percentage of grant to total cost ⁸¹	Contract value not collected
4.	Finance	Department of Finance	First Home Owner Grant costs by region and year since inception ⁸²	Too resource-intensive
5.	Energy	Synergy	Transfer of coal from Newcastle, New South Wales, to Collie, Western Australia ⁸³	Commercial-in-confidence
6.	Emergency Services	Department of Fire and Emergency Services	Transfer of asset agreement for the Rio Tinto workers' camp ⁸⁴	Commercial-in-confidence

⁷⁹ Answer to question prior to hearing 2b asked by Hon Dr Brad Pettitt MLC and answered by Hon Sue Ellery MLC, Minister for Finance, 9 June 2023, p 7.

⁸⁰ Answer to question prior to hearing 2d asked by Hon Dr Brad Pettitt MLC and answered by Hon Sue Ellery MLC, Minister for Finance, 9 June 2023, p 7.

⁸¹ Answer to question prior to hearing 2e asked by Hon Dr Brad Pettitt MLC and answered by Hon Sue Ellery MLC, Minister for Finance, 9 June 2023, p 7.

⁸² Answer to question prior to hearing 4a asked by Hon Dr Brad Pettitt MLC and answered by Hon Sue Ellery MLC, Minister for Finance, 9 June 2023, p 8.

⁸³ Answer to question prior to hearing 1a-f, & i asked by Hon Dr Steve Thomas MLC and answered by Hon Bill Johnston MLA, Minister for Energy, 9 June 2023, p 1.

⁸⁴ Answer to question prior to hearing 3h asked by Hon Martin Aldridge MLC and answered by Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Emergency Services, 9 June 2023, p 5.

No.	Minister	Agency	Issue	Basis for non-provision
7.	Emergency Services	Department of Fire and Emergency Services	Total cost of the new emergency rescue helicopter fleet ⁸⁵	Commercial-in-confidence
8.	Emergency Services	Department of Fire and Emergency Services	Costs of firefighting operations by contract aircraft type and year ⁸⁶	Commercial-in-confidence
9.	Emergency Services	Department of Fire and Emergency Services	Business case for procuring aviation firefighting services ⁸⁷	Cabinet-in-confidence
10.	Emergency Services	Department of Fire and Emergency Services	Costs of deploying the National Large Air Tanker ⁸⁸	Commercial-in-confidence
11.	Housing	Department of Communities	Number of shared equity dwellings provided through Keystart by property type and number of bedrooms ⁸⁹	Too resource-intensive
12.	Health	WA Health	Tom Price Hospital Redevelopment – Funding agreement with Rio Tinto ⁹⁰	Commercial-in-confidence
13.	Health	WA Health	Tom Price Hospital Redevelopment – Project Definition Plan ⁹¹	Cabinet-in-confidence
14.	Health	WA Health	Mullewa Hospital – Project Definition Plan ⁹²	Cabinet-in-confidence

⁸⁵ Answer to question prior to hearing 5a asked by Hon Martin Aldridge MLC and answered by Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Emergency Services, 9 June 2023, p 8.

⁸⁶ Answer to question prior to hearing 21c asked by Hon Martin Aldridge MLC and answered by Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Emergency Services, 9 June 2023, p 53.

⁸⁷ Answer to question prior to hearing 21e asked by Hon Martin Aldridge MLC and answered by Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Emergency Services, 9 June 2023, p 53.

⁸⁸ Answer to question prior to hearing 22b asked by Hon Martin Aldridge MLC and answered by Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Emergency Services, 9 June 2023, p 66.

⁸⁹ Answer to question prior to hearing 13 asked by Hon Dr Brad Pettitt MLC and answered by Hon John Carey MLA, Minister for Housing, 12 June 2023, p 7.

⁹⁰ Answer to question prior to hearing 6d asked by Hon Martin Aldridge MLC and answered by Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA, Minister for Health, 14 June 2023, p 8.

⁹¹ Answer to question prior to hearing 6g asked by Hon Martin Aldridge MLC and answered by Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA, Minister for Health, 14 June 2023, p 8.

⁹² Answer to question prior to hearing 8d asked by Hon Martin Aldridge MLC and answered by Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA, Minister for Health, 14 June 2023, p 16.

No.	Minister	Agency	Issue	Basis for non-provision
15.	Police	Western Australia Police Force	Police Assistance Centre – allocated FTEs and vacancies ⁹³	Operational reasons
16.	Police	Western Australia Police Force	Operation Shield – Evaluation report ⁹⁴	Operational reasons
17.	Police	Western Australia Police Force	Operation Shield – New deployments ⁹⁵	Operational reasons
18.	Corrective Services	Department of Justice	Staffing in state-operated prisons ⁹⁶	Too resource-intensive
19.	Corrective Services	Department of Justice	Prison officers accessing mental health services ⁹⁷	Limited data available
20.	Corrective Services	Department of Justice	Air conditioning in Roebourne Regional Prison ⁹⁸	Cabinet-in-confidence
21.	Attorney General	Department of Justice	Legislative drafting ⁹⁹	Cabinet-in-confidence
22.	Attorney General	Department of Justice	Resourcing the judicial commission ¹⁰⁰	Cabinet-in-confidence
23.	Attorney General	Department of Justice	Status of certain legislative reforms ¹⁰¹	Cabinet-in-confidence
24.	Transport	Public Transport Authority	Patronage data ¹⁰²	Not available within timeframes

⁹³ Answer to question prior to hearing 3a-d asked by Hon Peter Collier MLC and answered by Hon Paul Papalia MLA, Minister for Police, 16 June 2023, p 2.

⁹⁴ Answer to question prior to hearing 1c asked by Hon Dr Brad Pettitt MLC and answered by Hon Paul Papalia MLA, Minister for Police, 16 June 2023, p 8.

⁹⁵ Answer to question prior to hearing 1d asked by Hon Dr Brad Pettitt MLC and answered by Hon Paul Papalia MLA, Minister for Police, 16 June 2023, p 8.

⁹⁶ Answer to question prior to hearing 2 asked by Hon Peter Collier MLC and answered by Hon Paul Papalia MLA, Minister for Corrective Services, 16 June 2023, p 2.

⁹⁷ Answer to question prior to hearing 5 asked by Hon Peter Collier MLC and answered by Hon Paul Papalia MLA, Minister for Corrective Services, 16 June 2023, p 9.

⁹⁸ Answer to question prior to hearing 5c asked by Hon Dr Brad Pettitt MLC and answered by Hon Paul Papalia MLA, Minister for Corrective Services, 16 June 2023, p 20.

⁹⁹ Answer to question prior to hearing 2b & d-e asked by Hon Nick Goiran MLC and answered by Hon John Quigley MLA, Attorney General, 19 June 2023, p 2.

¹⁰⁰ Answer to question prior to hearing 6 asked by Hon Nick Goiran MLC and answered by Hon John Quigley MLA, Attorney General, 19 June 2023, p 3.

¹⁰¹ Answer to question prior to hearing 1 asked by Hon Tjorn Sibma MLC and answered by Hon John Quigley MLA, Attorney General, 19 June 2023, p 10.

¹⁰² Answer to question prior to hearing 6 asked by Hon Tjorn Sibma MLC and answered by Hon Rita Saffioti MLA, Minister for Transport, 21 June 2023, pp 4-5.

No.	Minister	Agency	Issue	Basis for non-provision
25.	Attorney General	State Solicitor's Office	Legal costs for the challenge against the <i>Courts Legislation Amendment (Magistrates) Act 2022</i> ¹⁰³	On-going matter
26.	Education	Department of Education	Cost of defending a Public Service Appeal Board matter ¹⁰⁴	Costs for individual cases not quantified
27.	Planning; Lands	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage	Agency capability review full report ¹⁰⁵	Cabinet-in-confidence
28.	Emergency Services	Department of Fire and Emergency Services	Aviation firefighting costs by aircraft type and year ¹⁰⁶	Commercial-in-confidence
29.	Emergency Services	Department of Fire and Emergency Services	National Large Air Tanker costs ¹⁰⁷	Commercial-in-confidence
30.	Water	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation	Agency capability review full report ¹⁰⁸	Cabinet-in-confidence
31.	Premier	Department of the Premier and Cabinet	Details of administered transactions, all other (income and expenses) ¹⁰⁹	Confidential
32.	Premier	Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation	LNG exporters' reporting requirements under the WA Domestic Gas Policy Reporting Framework ¹¹⁰	Commercial-in-confidence

¹⁰³ Answer to question prior to hearing 3 asked by Hon Nick Goiran MLC and answered by Hon John Quigley MLA, Attorney General, 22 June 2023, p 1.

¹⁰⁴ Answer to question on notice A12 (noted as 1) asked by Hon Nick Goiran MLC and answered by Hon Dr Tony Buti MLA, Minister for Education, 19 July 2023, p 17.

¹⁰⁵ Answer to additional question 1 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon John Carey MLA, Minister for Planning, Lands, 25 July 2023, p 1.

¹⁰⁶ Answer to additional question 11a asked by Hon Martin Aldridge MLC and answered by Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Emergency Services, 26 July 2023, p 149.

¹⁰⁷ Answer to additional question 12b asked by Hon Martin Aldridge MLC and answered by Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Emergency Services, 26 July 2023, p 150.

¹⁰⁸ Answer to additional question 1 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon Simone McGurk MLA, Minister for Water, 26 July 2023, p 1.

¹⁰⁹ Answer to additional question 2 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon Roger Cook MLA, Premier, 27 July 2023, p 1.

¹¹⁰ Answer to additional question 1 asked by Hon Dr Brad Pettitt MLC and answered by Hon Roger Cook MLA, Premier, 27 July 2023, p 1.

No.	Minister	Agency	Issue	Basis for non-provision
33.	Premier	Public Sector Commissioner	Agency capability review full reports ¹¹¹	Cabinet-in-confidence
34.	Treasurer	Department of Treasury	Adjustments to appropriations ¹¹²	Too resource-intensive
35.	Finance	Department of Finance	Agency capability review full report ¹¹³	Cabinet-in-confidence
36.	Mines and Petroleum	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety	Agency capability review full report ¹¹⁴	Cabinet-in-confidence
37.	Health	WA Health	Number of children or adolescents that received puberty suppression, oestrogen or testosterone treatment without the consent of any parent ¹¹⁵	Patient confidentiality
38.	Health	WA Health	Briefing materials for the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission Report 8: Unlawful Detention in Public Hospitals – Parliamentary Inspector's Report ¹¹⁶	Cabinet-in-confidence
39.	Health	WA Health	Expected scope of works identified by WACHS in relation to the Albany Health Campus ¹¹⁷	Commercial-in-confidence and Cabinet-in-confidence
40.	Health	WA Health	The Albany Health Campus master plan ¹¹⁸	Commercial-in-confidence and Cabinet-in-confidence

¹¹¹ Answer to additional question 1 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon Roger Cook MLA, Premier, 27 July 2023, p 1.

¹¹² Answer to additional question 6 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon Rita Saffioti, Treasurer, 27 July 2023, p 7.

¹¹³ Answer to additional question 1 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon Sue Ellery MLC, Minister for Finance, 28 July 2023, p 1.

¹¹⁴ Answer to additional question 1 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon Bill Johnston MLA, Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Energy; Industrial Relations, 2 August 2023, p 1.

¹¹⁵ Answer to question on notice B11 asked by Hon Nick Goiran MLC and answered by Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA, 3 August 2023, p 4.

¹¹⁶ Answer to additional question 2d asked by Hon Nick Goiran MLC and answered by Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA, 3 August 2023, p 3.

¹¹⁷ Answer to additional question 1b asked by Hon Martin Aldridge MLC and answered by Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA, 3 August 2023, p 4.

¹¹⁸ Answer to additional question 1e asked by Hon Martin Aldridge MLC and answered by Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA, 3 August 2023, p 4.

No.	Minister	Agency	Issue	Basis for non-provision
41.	Health	WA Health	Business case for the redevelopment of the Albany Health Campus ¹¹⁹	Cabinet-in-confidence
42.	Environment	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions	Agency capability review full report ¹²⁰	Cabinet-in-confidence
43.	Environment; Climate Change	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions	Tabling of tingle-specific monitoring programs ¹²¹	Not considered to be a reasonable use of Government resources
44.	Environment; Climate Change	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions	Tabling information to assist with the assessment of the conservation status of the Empodisma peatlands of south-western Australia by DCCEW ¹²²	Not considered to be a reasonable use of Government resources
45.	Environment; Climate Change	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions	Tabling results of peatlands species monitoring ¹²³	Not considered to be a reasonable use of Government resources
46.	Environment; Climate Change	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions	Tabling authorisations, conditions applications and assessment documents under section 40 and 45 of the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> for management activities ¹²⁴	Confidential information protected by section 276 of the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>

¹¹⁹ Answer to additional question 1f asked by Hon Martin Aldridge MLC and answered by Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA, 3 August 2023, p 4.

¹²⁰ Answer to additional question 1 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon Reece Whitby MLA, 4 August 2023, p 1.

¹²¹ Answer to additional question 10c asked by Hon Dr Brad Pettitt MLC and answered by Hon Reece Whitby MLA, Minister for Environment, 4 August 2023, pp 10-11.

¹²² Answer to additional question 11e asked by Hon Dr Brad Pettitt MLC and answered by Hon Reece Whitby MLA, Minister for Environment, 4 August 2023, p 11.

¹²³ Answer to additional question 12c asked by Hon Dr Brad Pettitt MLC and answered by Hon Reece Whitby MLA, Minister for Environment, 4 August 2023, p 12.

¹²⁴ Answer to additional question 16d asked by Hon Dr Brad Pettitt MLC and answered by Hon Reece Whitby MLA, Minister for Environment, 4 August 2023, p 15.

No.	Minister	Agency	Issue	Basis for non-provision
47.	Environment; Climate Change	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions	Percentage of prescribed burns that met their stated objectives in the last 5 years ¹²⁵	Not considered to be a reasonable use of Government resources
48.	Environment; Climate Change	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions	Names of non-government biodiversity or wildlife organisations or experts sharing information and observations about threatened and priority species in a biodiversity data sharing platform database ¹²⁶	Data sharing agreements or conditions of supply restrict use and protect confidentiality
49.	Environment; Climate Change	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions	Agency capability review full report ¹²⁷	Cabinet-in-confidence
50.	Culture and the Arts, Sport and Recreation	Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries	Agency capability review full report ¹²⁸	Cabinet-in-confidence
51.	Corrective Services	Department of Justice	Daily out of cells hours for a distinct young person in detention at Unit 18 ¹²⁹	Cannot be provided within given timeframes
52.	Corrective Services	Department of Justice	Total number of staffing shifts that have gone unfulfilled at Banksia Hill and Unit 18 ¹³⁰	An accurate response cannot be provided

¹²⁵ Answer to additional question 18c asked by Hon Dr Brad Pettitt MLC and answered by Hon Reece Whitby MLA, Minister for Environment, 4 August 2023, p 19.

¹²⁶ Answer to additional question 27c asked by Hon Dr Brad Pettitt MLC and answered by Hon Reece Whitby MLA, Minister for Environment, 4 August 2023, p 26.

¹²⁷ Answer to additional question 1 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon Reece Whitby MLA, Minister for Environment, 4 August 2023, p 1.

¹²⁸ Answer to additional question 1 asked by the Committee and answered by Hon David Templeman MLA, Minister for Culture and the Arts, Sport and Recreation, 11 August 2023, p 1.

¹²⁹ Answer to additional question 17d asked by Hon Dr Brad Pettitt MLC and answered by Hon Paul Papalia MLA, Minister for Corrective Services, 15 August 2023, p 24.

¹³⁰ Answer to additional question 22 asked by Hon Dr Brad Pettitt MLC and answered by Hon Paul Papalia MLA, Minister for Corrective Services, 15 August 2023, p 35.

No.	Minister	Agency	Issue	Basis for non-provision
53.	Housing	Department of Communities	Public housing waitlist by homelessness type and other categories ¹³¹	Too resource-intensive
54.	Housing	Department of Communities	Termination notices and court order terminations that ended with the tenant remaining in the property ¹³²	Too resource-intensive
55.	Housing	Department of Communities	Support services for public housing tenants that have been issued a termination notice or court order to vacate for tenants that would like to remain at the property ¹³³	Too resource-intensive
56.	Energy	Synergy	New renewable generation and storage projects ¹³⁴	Commercially sensitive and commercial-in-confidence
57.	Energy	Synergy	List of future power sites and their potential generation capacity ¹³⁵	Still conducting pre-feasibility studies into sites, with any further detail commercial-in-confidence.
58.	Attorney General	Department of Justice	Communications between the Department and the State Solicitor's Office or Solicitor-General on Assessor Hafford matter ¹³⁶	Legal professional privilege
59.	Attorney General	Department of Justice	Letter from the Director-General to the Attorney General on the Assessor Hafford matter ¹³⁷	Legal professional privilege and Cabinet confidentiality

¹³¹ Answer to additional question 3b-d asked by Hon Dr Brad Pettitt MLC and answered by Hon John Carey MLA, Minister for Housing; Homelessness, 17 August 2023, pp 3-4.

¹³² Answer to additional question 12d-e asked by Hon Dr Brad Pettitt MLC and answered by Hon John Carey MLA, Minister for Housing; Homelessness, 17 August 2023, p 6.

¹³³ Answer to additional question 12f-g asked by Hon Dr Brad Pettitt MLC and answered by Hon John Carey MLA, Minister for Housing; Homelessness, 17 August 2023, p 6.

¹³⁴ Answer to additional question 1 asked by Hon Dr Brad Pettitt MLC and answered by Hon Bill Johnston MLA, Minister for Energy, 23 August 2023, p 1.

¹³⁵ Answer to additional question 6b asked by Hon Dr Brad Pettitt MLC and answered by Hon Bill Johnston MLA, Minister for Energy, 23 August 2023, p 5.

¹³⁶ Answer to question on notice 2 asked by Hon Nick Goiran MLC and answered by Hon John Quigley MLA, Attorney General, 11 September 2023, p 1.

¹³⁷ Answer to question on notice 2 asked by Hon Nick Goiran MLC and answered by Hon John Quigley MLA, Attorney General, 11 September 2023, p 1.

Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations

Date first appointed:

30 June 2005

Terms of Reference:

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

- 3. Estimates and Financial Operations Committee
 - 3.1 An Estimates and Financial Operations Committee is established.
 - 3.2 The Committee consists of 5 Members, 3 of whom shall be non-Government Members.
 - 3.3 The functions of the Committee are to -
 - (a) consider and report on -
 - (i) the estimates of expenditure laid before the Council each year;
 - (ii) any matter relating to the financial administration of the State; and
 - (iii) any Bill or other matter relating to the foregoing functions referred by the Council;
 - and
 - (b) consult regularly with the Auditor General.



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