

TERMS OF REFERENCE – ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2017

Resolution of 11 May 2017

The Legislative Assembly resolved that:

1. There be appointed an Estimates Committee of the Legislative Assembly (the Committee) for the purposes of examining and reporting on the:
 - (a) estimates of proposed expenditure contained in the Appropriation (2017-2018) Bill (the Appropriation Bill) and related budget documents,
 - (b) activities, performance, practices and financial management of the Power and Water Corporation, Jacana Energy and Territory Generation, with reference to those corporations' Statements of Corporate Intent 2017-18, and
 - (c) the performance of Agencies as outlined in their Annual Reports.
2. The membership of the Committee will be four Government Members and one Opposition Member and two non-party aligned Members to be appointed by motion without notice. Pursuant to SO193(2), Members of the Assembly who are not members of the Committee may participate in public hearings of the Committee, provided that at any time a quorum of 3 members of the Committee is maintained. Proxy Members can also make up the quorum if previously nominated to the Chair in writing.
3. Unless otherwise ordered by the Committee, the Committee will hold hearings:
 - (a) for up to 30 hours in relation to 1(a) and (b) on:
 - Monday, 19 June 2017
 - Tuesday, 20 June 2017
 - Wednesday, 21 June 2017.
 - (b) for up to 30 hours in relation to 1(c) on:
 - Tuesday, 28 November 2017
 - Wednesday, 29 November 2017
 - Thursday, 30 November 2017
4. The Committee shall examine the proposed expenditure contained in the Appropriation Bill by portfolios in accordance with the schedule to be published by the Committee and the proposed expenditure shall be considered on an output by output basis for each portfolio unit.
5. The Committee shall publish a schedule of the times allotted for hearing from Ministers, the Speaker and Board Chairs.
6. The maximum total time of the appearance at all hearings of each of the Chief Minister and the Treasurer shall be 8 hours, and for each other Minister and the Speaker shall be 7 hours.
7. All hearings of the Committee are to be open to the public unless the Committee orders otherwise.

8. All questions should conform to Standing Order 109 and answers will be concise and directly relevant to the question asked.
9. Answers to questions taken on notice during the June hearings, or additional information about an answer given by or on behalf of a Minister, the Speaker or Board Chair, are to be written and given to the First Clerk Assistant by 13 July 2017, or other earlier time decided by the Committee. For the November hearings, such answers or information are to be submitted by 14 December 2017. Answers or additional information so received are deemed to be documents presented to the Committee.
10. The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly is authorised to publish a transcript of the Committee proceedings, whether or not it has been edited, as soon as practicable.
11. Evidence taken in public by the Committee and documents presented to the Committee are deemed to be authorised for publication by the Committee, unless the Committee orders otherwise.
12. At a hearing of the Committee, the Chair may, after a warning, order any Member of the Assembly whose conduct, in the opinion of the Chair, continues to be disorderly or disruptive to immediately withdraw from the Committee for a period of 1 hour.
13. Following its second reading, the Appropriation (2017-2018) Bill stands referred to the Committee for report by 22 June 2017.
14. The Committee is to report on its consideration of Annual Reports at the next available sitting day.
15. When the Committee's report on the Appropriation Bill is presented the Assembly shall immediately consider the question:

that the expenditure proposed in the Appropriation (2017-2018) Bill stand as part of the Bill, and the report of the Estimates Committee be noted.
16. The following time limits shall apply to the debate on the Committee's report on the Appropriation Bill:
 - Ministers, Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Ministers: 20 minutes;
 - Any other Member: 10 minutes;
 - The maximum period for consideration shall be 5 hours.
17. When the question on the expenditure proposed in the Appropriation (2017-2018) Bill is agreed to, the following question is proposed and put immediately:

that the remainder of the Bill stand as part of the Bill.
18. When the Appropriation Bill has been agreed to by the Assembly, the third reading may be taken into consideration immediately.
19. Pursuant to Standing Order 4, the dates on which the Assembly will meet during November will be 21, 22 and 23 November 2017.
20. This resolution shall have effect notwithstanding anything contained in Standing and Sessional Orders.