

TERMS OF REFERENCE – ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2018

Resolution of 22 March 2018

This Assembly resolves 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 (2018- 2019) 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 2018-19, and
 - (c) the performance of Agencies as outlined in their Annual Reports.
2. The membership of the Committee will be four Government Members, one Opposition Member and two non party aligned Members to be nominated in writing to the Speaker by the relevant Whip or non-party aligned Member.
3. Quorum will consist of 3 members of the Estimates Committee
4. The total time for hearings of the Committee may not exceed 60 hours.
5. The Committee will publish a schedule of the days and times of hearings by 28 April 2018. The Committee may only amend the published schedule with the consent of the Leader of Government Business.
6. 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.
7. The Committee shall publish a schedule of the times allotted for hearing from Ministers, the Speaker and Board Chairs.
8. 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.
9. All hearings of the Committee are to be open to the public unless the Committee orders otherwise.
10. All questions should conform to Standing Order 109 and answers will be concise and directly relevant to the question asked.
11. 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 within 21 days, or other earlier time determined by the Committee. Answers or additional information so received are deemed to be documents presented to the Committee.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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.

15. Following its second reading, the Appropriation (2018-2019) Bill stands referred to the Committee for report by 21 June 2018.
16. The Committee is to report on its consideration of Annual Reports at the next available sitting day after the conclusion of hearings.
17. 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 (2018-2019) Bill stand as part of the Bill, and the report of the Estimates Committee be noted.
18. 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.
19. When the question on the expenditure proposed in the Appropriation (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.
20. When the Appropriation Bill has been agreed to by the Assembly, the third reading may be taken into consideration immediately.
21. This resolution shall have effect notwithstanding anything contained in Standing and Sessional Orders.