

## APPOINTMENT AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

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The Committee was established by Order of the Legislative Council on Thursday, 30 November 2000 as follows :

*Ordered,* That two Government Business Enterprises and Government Corporations Scrutiny Committees be established, with leave to sit on 20 and 21 February 2001 between the hours of 9.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. to inquire into Government Business Enterprises and Government Corporations (GBEs and GCs) in accordance with the following schedule and rules.

For 2001 the following Government Business Enterprises and Government Corporations are allocated to the Committees as detailed below :

Tuesday, 20 February 2001	Committee A - Metro Tasmania Pty Ltd, Motor Accidents Insurance Board, TT Line Company Pty Ltd
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Wednesday, 21 February 2001	Committee B - Civil Construction Corporation, Forestry Tasmania, Hydro Tasmania
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### MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE -

- (1) Each Committee shall consist of five Members appointed by the Council.
- (2) During sittings, substitute Members may be allowed at the discretion of the Chair.
- (3) If a vacancy occurs in the membership of a Committee, the President may nominate a Member in substitution, but in so doing has regard to the composition of the Committee appointed by the Council.
- (4) A Committee may proceed with business despite a vacancy in its membership.
- (5) The Chair of a Committee has a deliberative vote only.
- (6) The quorum of a Committee is three of whom one is the Chair of the Committee or Deputy Chair.

- (7) If at any time a quorum is not present the Chair will suspend proceedings of the Committee until a quorum is present or adjourn the Committee.
- (8) Any time lost for lack of a quorum shall be added to the time allocated to that session.
- (9) Members of the Council who have not been appointed as Members of a Committee, may participate in proceedings by asking questions at the discretion of the Chair; and may not vote, move any motion or be counted for the purposes of a quorum.
- (10) A responsible Minister and Chairperson of the Board of a GBE or GC shall be examined before a Committee for a maximum period of 4 hours.

#### SITTING TIMES

- (1) Each Committee meets only in accordance with the time-table adopted by the Council or as varied by the Chair.
- (2) A one-hour period shall be provided each day at the discretion of the Chair for the purpose of a luncheon break.
- (3) Each Committee may sit only when the Council is not sitting.

#### HEARINGS

All hearings of each Committee are open to the public except that any evidence stated by a witness to be of a commercially sensitive or confidential nature shall, if requested by at least one Member of the Committee, be heard *in camera*. Any such evidence shall not be published or in any way divulged by any Member of a Committee or any other person unless the Committee recommends it to the Council and the Council resolves that the information be made public.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF A GOVERNMENT BUSINESS ENTERPRISES AND GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE.

- (1) When the activities of a GBE or GC are to be examined at a Committee hearing it shall be represented by the responsible Minister and the Chairperson of the Board.
- (2) Questions may be put directly to the responsible Minister and the Chairperson of the Board.

- (3) A Committee may ask for explanations relating to the activities, performance, practices and economic management of the GBE or GC.
- (4) The witnesses who are asked for explanations may be assisted where necessary by other officers of the GBE or GC in the provision of factual information.
- (5) Officers may answer questions at the request of the Minister but shall not be required to comment on policy matters.
- (6) Time limits of one minute for a question and three minutes for an answer shall apply in a Committee.
- (7) The ratio of Questions to be asked may be in such form as the Committee determines.
- (8) A witness may advise a Committee that an answer to a question, or part of a question, will be given later to that Committee, and where possible that Committee sitting day.
- (9) Additional information may be provided to a Committee about an answer given.
- (10) Additional information -
  - (a) is to be written;
  - (b) given by a time decided by a Committee; and
  - (c) may be included in a volume of additional information laid on the Table of the Council by the Committee.
- (11) If any Member persistently disrupts the business of a Committee, the Chair -
  - (a) names the Member;
  - (b) if the Member named is a Member of the Committee, suspends the sittings of the Committee until he or she has reported the offence to the President;  
  
as soon as practicable, the Chair advises the President who then gives notice that the Member of the Committee be replaced; and
  - (c) if the Member named is not a Member of the Committee, orders that Member's withdrawal from the

sittings of the Committee until he or she has reported the offence to the President.

- (12) If any objection is taken to a ruling or decision of the Chair,
- (a) the objection must be taken at once and stated in writing;
  - (b) the Chair, as soon as practicable, advises the President who makes a ruling on the matter; and
  - (c) the Committee may continue to meet but may not further examine the matter then under consideration.
- (13) Television coverage will be allowed subject to -
- (a) the foregoing provisions contained under "Hearings"; and
  - (b) the same guidelines that apply to televising of the Legislative Council.

## TRANSCRIPT

An unedited transcript of Committee proceedings is to be circulated, in a manner similar to that used for other Committee transcripts, as soon as practicable after the Committee's proceedings.

Evidence taken *in camera* shall be printed on coloured paper and shall only be circulated to the Committee Members and shall not be divulged in any way to any other person.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

A Report of each Committee is to be brought up by the Chair or the Deputy Chair to the Council and shall be the transcript of the public hearings and the minutes of the meetings of the Committee.

And that the Legislative Council give leave to the Treasurer to attend any similar Committee established by the House of Assembly if requested by that Committee should it examine GBEs or GCs within the area of the Treasurer's portfolio responsibilities.

And that –

Mrs Edwards  
Mrs Silvia Smith  
Mr Squibb  
Ms Thorp  
Mr Wilkinson, and

Mr Wing

be of Committee A; and

Mr Fletcher

Mr Harriss

Mr Loone

Mr Rattray, and

Mrs Sue Smith

be of Committee B