



1970

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA

STANDING COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

GENERAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1970

Brought up by Mr Neilson on Thursday, 17 September and ordered by the House of Assembly to be printed

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**Standing Committee of Public Accounts
General Report for the Year Ended 30 June 1970
REPORT**

Personnel of the Committee

Members of the Committee are as follows:—

Mr Neilson (Chairman), Mr Austin, Mr Baker (Deputy-Chairman), Mr Barrenger, Mr Braid, Mr Costello and Mr Pearsall.

General

The Committee have the honour to report having continued active investigation in a number of fields. Twenty-eight meetings were held during the year. Meetings were attended by the Auditor-General, Mr N. E. Casey, the Deputy Auditor-General, Mr J. G. Lennox and the Treasury was represented by the Public Accounts Officer, Mr P. T. Williams. Their assistance, and that of the Secretary, Mr P. T. McKay, is gratefully acknowledged.

Reports were made to Parliament on—

- Department of Film Production (Paper No. 29 of 1969);
- General Report for 1968-69 (Paper No. 67 of 1969);
- Public Buildings, Murray Street (Paper No. 64 of 1969);
- Potato Marketing Board (Paper No. 8 of 1970);
- Motor Vehicles Enquiry (Paper No. 5 of 1970).

The most important of these Reports was the one which concerned the operation of motor vehicles by State Departments and authorities. This is an area involving considerable expenditure. At the same time there is room for much improvement: through rationalisation of procedures it would be possible to make very worthwhile savings. Among the Committee's main conclusions were that the Supply and Tender Department should be made responsible for arranging contracts for the supply and disposal of all motor vehicles, motor spirits, tyres and batteries, that all light vehicles should be changed over at the most economic time, that particular vehicles should not be issued on a long-term basis to particular officers, but rotated to ensure their economic use, and that the use of private motor vehicles on official business should be reduced drastically.

Enquiry in Progress

On 25 June 1970 the Committee commenced an enquiry into the operation and use of automatic data processing by State Departments and authorities.

This aspect of the work of the Public Service is regarded as very important. The potential for efficient and economic administration is enormous and therefore a thorough enquiry on present methods and planned developments is under way.

W. A. NEILSON, Chairman

Ministerial Party Room,
Parliament House.
15 September 1970.