

Budget Accountability and Oversight Committee Bill 2025

Clause Notes

Clause 1: Short title

This clause provides the short title of the Act, which is the Budget Accountability and Oversight Committee Act 2025

Clause 2: Commencement

This clause specifies that the Act will commence on the day it receives the Royal Assent.

Clause 3: Interpretation

This clause defines key terms used in the Act, such as "budget," "budget papers," "Committee," "fiscal sustainability," "General Government Sector," "Government," "Public Accounts Committee," "public sector finances," and "statutory authority".

Clause 4: Parliamentary Standing Committee on Budget Accountability and Oversight established

This clause establishes the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Budget Accountability and Oversight as a joint committee of the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly. The clause also contains doubts removal clauses drawn from provisions related to the *Public Accounts Committee Act 1970* and provisions in the *Integrity Commission Act 2009* related to the Joint Standing Committee on Integrity.

Clause 5: Purpose of Committee

This clause outlines the primary purpose of the Committee, which is to evaluate the management of public sector finances and recommend measures to improve accountability and sustainability.

Clause 6: Functions of Committee

This clause details the functions of the Committee, including reviewing budget papers, financial positions, and reports, examining measures for fiscal sustainability, establishing targets, and making

recommendations. The clause also details how the Committee can perform its functions and requirements on the Treasurer to take any recommended targets into account when developing a budget. The clause further enables the Auditor General to assess whether such targets have been met.

Clause 7: Powers of Committee

This clause grants the Committee the powers necessary to perform its functions, including summoning Ministers and officers of the Crown and engaging experts and advisors.

Clause 8: Relationship to Public Accounts Committee

This clause requires the Committee to consult with the Public Accounts Committee before performing any function or exercising any power in respect of a matter that is before the Public Accounts Committee.

Clause 9: Evidence before Committee

This clause sets out the rules for handling evidence given before the Committee, including provisions for private hearings and penalties for unauthorised disclosure.

Clause 10: Reports of Committee

This clause requires the Committee to prepare and present reports on its activities at least once a year and mandates the Government to respond to these reports within three months.

Clause 11: Continuation of proceedings

This clause allows the Committee, as constituted from time to time, to continue proceedings and consider evidence taken by previous iterations of the Committee.

Clause 12: Regulations

This clause empowers the Governor to make regulations for the purposes of the Act.

Clause 13: Review of Act

This clause mandates a review of the operation of the Act and the Committee's performance, to be conducted no sooner than eight years and completed within nine years after the commencement of the Act. The person to be appointed to conduct the review and the terms of reference for the review need to be agreed between the Minister and the Committee. The Committee is to consult with the Joint Standing Committee on Public Accounts regarding the review. The clause provides provisions for consultation in the event of Parliament being prorogued.

Clause 14: Administration of Act

This clause assigns the administration of the Act to the Premier and the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Schedule 1: Membership and Meetings of Committee

This schedule outlines the membership and meeting procedures of the Committee, including the appointment of members, the election of the chair and deputy chair, and the conduct of meetings.