



Parliamentary Standing Account of Public Accounts

Media Advisory

Friday, 30 September 2022

Final Reports:

- **Review of Selected Public Works Committee Reports:**
 - **41 of 2020: Sorell Emergency Services Hub; and**
 - **15 of 2020: Major Redevelopment of Sorell School**
 - **Annual Report 2021-22**
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The Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts tabled the Final Report of its review of the works recommended by the Public Works Committee in the 2020 Reports for the following works:

- 41 of 2020: Sorell Emergency Services Hub; and
- 15 of 2020: Major Redevelopment of Sorell School.

The Committee focused on inquiring into the timeliness, outcomes achieved, budget compliance and contract variations of both projects under review. The Committee found that:

- despite the projected delays expected with COVID-19, the progress of the Sorell Emergency Services Hub was continuing satisfactorily;
- the projected delays due to latent soil conditions on the Sorell Emergency Services Hub site will not significantly impact the completion of the works;
- the new Hub will provide an improved 24/7 emergency services response service to the surrounding area;
- the Department of Police Fire and Emergency Management (DPFEM) had planned contingencies to deal with any potential contract variations during the course of the Sorell Emergency Services Hub project;
- the progress of the major redevelopment of Sorell School appeared to be progressing satisfactorily;

- whilst it was conceded by the Department of Education (DoE) that ongoing capital works during a school term was disruptive to the Sorell School (and any school) operations in general, that the Department had supported the School through this difficult period;
- the potential for a new gymnasium and oval at Sorell School will be explored by DoE through future capital works submission(s) made as part of the Department's annual budget process; and
- DoE had planned contingencies to deal with potential contract variations during the course of the Major Redevelopment of Sorell School project.

The Committee made two recommendations to DPFEM and DoE respectively:

- DPFEM consider, as part of future infrastructure programs, other sites that would benefit from an emergency services response facility similar to the Sorell Emergency Services Hub model; and
- DoE continue to support all schools with appropriate additional resourcing when undertaking major capital works programs to minimise disruption to normal activities.

The Committee also tabled its Annual Report for the financial year ending 30 June 2022. The Committee notes that it celebrated its 160th year of existence since a House of Assembly Select Committee was appointed to enquire into the system of keeping and auditing Public Accounts on 28 August 1862.

Members of the Committee at the time of the Reports completion were:

Legislative Council

Hon Ruth Forrest MLC (Chair)

Hon Meg Webb MLC

Hon Josh Willie MLC

House of Assembly

Dr Shane Broad MP

Mr John Tucker MP

Mr Felix Ellis MP (until 25 Jul 2022)

Ms Lara Alexander MP (from 16 Aug 2022)

Further information about the Committee and copies of the tabled reports are available on the [Committee website](#).

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Further information: Ruth Forrest MLC (Chair) – 0419 879 524