

MINUTES

of a meeting of the Parliamentary Committee of Public Accounts held in Committee Meeting Room A35, ground floor, Parliament House, commencing at 2.11 pm on Wednesday 9 December 1992. Members present: D'Arcy, Elliott, Fenlon, Grice, Hollis, Pearce, and Santoro. Also present: Mr Dahms and Mr Beh.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the meeting of 24 November 1992 were circulated and confirmed on the motion of D'Arcy, seconded Grice.

Matters Arising

Mr Fenlon briefed the Committee on his recent study trip to South Australia where he met with Mr J Quirke (Presiding Member) and Ms T Flynn (Secretary) of the South Australian Economic and Finance Committee. Whilst there he also looked at matters associated with the Royal Commission into the State Bank of South Australia. He has material for the Committee and it was agreed that Mr Dahms would copy relevant parts for Committee Members.

Inward correspondence

1. Mr R A Shead, Queensland Treasury (30 November 1992)
 - Request for submission from the Public Accounts Committee on a review of external reporting
2. Mr D Barbagallo, Office of the Premier of Queensland (1 December 1992)
 - acknowledgment of receipt of Public Accounts Committee letter of 25 November 1992 re the Committee's 'Review of the Implementation of the Public Finance Standards' report
3. Mr J G Miller, Director General, Dept Primary Industries (4 December 1992)
 - Reply to the Committee's letter of 26 November 1992 re the Auditor-General's qualification to the Department's Appropriation Account and Departmental Statements for the year ended 30 June 1992
4. Mr A Grice MLA, Member for Broadwater (Tabled 9 December 1992)
 - Re inquiry into the Gold Coast Indy Grand Prix.

Resolved (moved Elliott, seconded Grice) that the inwards correspondence be accepted.

Business Arising

Agreed The Chairman, Mr Dahms and Mr Beh meet with the review team from Treasury to discuss the Committee's response to the review of external reporting.

Agreed that the letters from Mr Miller and Mr Grice be raised under Other Business.

Outward Correspondence

1. The Honourable W K Goss, MLA, Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development (25 November 1992)
 - with a copy of the Committee's report upon its Review of the Implementation of the Public Finance Standards and with a reference to Ministerial responses required under s.36 of the *Public Accounts Committee Act 1988*.
2. The Honourable K E De Lacy MLA, Treasurer (25 November 1992)
 - with a copy of the Committee's report upon its Review of the Implementation of the Public Finance Standards and with a reference to Ministerial responses required under s.36 of the *Public Accounts Committee Act 1988*.
3. Mr J G Miller, Director General, Dept of Primary Industries (26 November 1992)
 - Referring to the Auditor-General's qualification to the Department's Appropriation Account and Departmental Statements and requesting further advice concerning bank account and ledger reconciliations.
4. Mr J A F Purvis, Secretary, Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees (7 December 1992)
 - Advising that Mr Hollis is the new Chairman of the Queensland Public Accounts Committee.

Resolved (moved Elliott, seconded D'Arcy) that the outwards correspondence be adopted.

Review of Parliamentary Committees

A summary of the main points from EARC's report on the Review of Parliamentary Committees was placed before the Committee for discussion and the Members' opinions canvassed.

Agreed that the Chairman, Mr Dahms and Mr Beh prepare a submission to the Parliamentary Committee for Electoral and Administrative Review on the basis of the above discussion. Committee Members are to individually provide to the

Chairman their thoughts on the additional responsibilities for the Committee as proposed in the EARC Report.

The Committee thanked Mr Beh for his efforts in summarising the main points from the EARC Report.

IIR Conference (25, 26 February 1993)

Mr Dahms advised the Committee that IIR has made available three passes for both days of the IIR conference. The Committee is to decide how these are to be used.

Agreed that decisions on allocation of these passes be deferred until a time closer to the conference.

Mr Dahms requested details from Committee Members who need to claim for travel to Committee Meetings during the December-January recess.

Department of Primary Industries - Long Unreconciled Bank accounts

The letter from DPI (4 December 1992) in reply to the Committee's inquiries concerning long unreconciled bank accounts was placed before the Committee. The Chairman proposed that further inquiries be made regarding:

- what systems testing had been undertaken prior to implementation
- whether Audit was consulted during the system development [PFS 400 (3)]
- the quality of the Consultancy work
- lack of audit trails (PIAS receipting system)

Agreed that the Chairman write to the Director-General, Dept of Primary Industries concerning these matters and that the Chairman and Research Staff meet with the Director-General to discuss the 4 December 1992 response.

Nominee for the Position of the Auditor-General

Mr Beh asked to be excused from the meeting during discussion of this matter. **Granted** and Mr Beh left the meeting.

The Chairman placed before the Committee a letter from the Premier outlining the selection process for the position of Auditor-General and naming Mr Barrie Rollason as the Premier's nominee for the position of Auditor-General. The Chairman also provided Members with a copy of Mr Rollason's curriculum vitae.

After discussion, the Committee raised no objections to the Premier's nomination of Mr Rollason for the position of Auditor-General.

Mr Beh returned to the meeting.

Other Business

1. Gold Coast Motor Events Co. Matters raised in Mr Grice's tabled letter were discussed by the Committee. Mr Grice advised that during a discussion with a senior management official of the Gold Coast Motor Events Co. today (9 December 1992) he was urged to drop the matter and that he had been threatened. Mr Grice further advised that the threat was not physical and asked that this matter recorded in the Committee's minutes. **Granted.**

Resolved (moved Elliott, seconded Pearce) that the Committee seek clarification from the Acting Auditor-General on the systems evaluation matters raised on page 123 of the First Report of the Auditor-General on Audits Performed for the Financial Year Ended 30 June 1992.

2. The Committee's letter to Mr Sinclair (Fraser Island Defender's Organisation) concerning Government acquisition of the Orchid Beach Resort was held over for clarification.

Agreed that the letter should also include a copy of s.13 the *Public Accounts Committee Act 1988*.

3. First Report of the Auditor-General on Audits Performed for the Financial Year Ended 30 June 1992.

Agreed that the Chairman, Mr Dahms and Mr Beh meet with the Acting Auditor-General to discuss the Auditor-General's First Report for the financial year ending 30 June 1992 and to report the outcome back to the Committee at its next meeting.

Next Meeting

January - date to be advised.

The meeting closed at 4.45 pm

Confirmed 18th December 1992

Chairman

