

MINUTES

A meeting of the Parliamentary Committee of Public Works was held in the Public Accounts Committee Rooms, Level 6 of the Parliamentary Annexe on Thursday, 8 March, 1990 at 9.10 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms Spence, Messrs McGrady, Randell, Berghofer, Bredhauer, Coomber, Livingstone.

In attendance—Mr Bletchly Clerk-Assistant (Committees).

OPENING OF MEETING: The Clerk-Assistant (Committees) opened the meeting by informing Members of the provision of the Public Works Committee Act 1989 relating to the constitution of the Committee. Entry No. 14 from the Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly No. 4 of Tuesday 6 March 1990 was also read.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN: The Clerk-Assistant (Committees) informed the meeting that Section 12 of the Act provided for the election of a Chairman and Deputy Chairman and that Standing Order 190 prescribed that before proceeding to any Business the Committee was to elect its own Chairman. As Standing Orders do not prescribe the process for the election of a Chairman, the Clerk-Assistant (Committees) read to the meeting the process used in the House of Commons as detailed in Erskine May 21st edition as at page 621.

Mr Randell being senior Member was asked to call on the voice of the Members present for the election of a chairman.

Mr McGrady being the only Member called assumed the Chair.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Chairman thereupon called for nominations for Deputy Chairman. Mr Randell being the only Member called was declared Deputy Chairman.

SECTIONS OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE ACT: General discussion was held on the provisions of the Act. Members' attention was drawn specifically to Section 8 (e) concerning absences from Meetings.

Agreed that the question of legal representation was to be clarified. The Clerk-Assistant (Committees) to investigate.

MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS: Noted that Section 10 of the Act prescribes that Members shall swear and declare a duty of Office before Mr Speaker. The Clerk-Assistant (Committees) advised that arrangements had been made for this to occur at 2.15 p.m. on even date.

STAFF POSITION RESEARCH
DIRECTOR:

The meeting was informed that the position was currently advertised.

Agreed Members interested in reviewing applications and interviewing applicants to notify Chairman.

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION:

The subject of permanent office accommodation was discussed including the proposal to be located in Capital Hill.

Noted that the matter will have to be resolved by the Parliamentary Service Commission.

OBSERVANCE OF
OTHER COMMITTEES
IN OPERATION:

The Clerk-Assistant (Committees) informed the meeting that the previous Public Accounts Committee had gained considerable benefit from observing NSW PAC public hearings and that hearings were tentatively scheduled for 9/10 and 23/24 April.

Agreed Clerk-Assistant (Committees) to advise Members in writing of subject of hearings. Members to nominate dates if interested.

The Chairman also advised of the benefits he had obtained from visiting the Works Committee in Adelaide and Committees in Victoria.

Agreed Members wishing to visit Adelaide etc. to advise dates etc.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF
ASSISTANCE OF FORMER
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:

The Chairman requested that it be recorded that he was very appreciative of assistance that he had received from Mr H. Palaszczuk, Deputy Chairman of the Committee of the Forty-fifth Parliament.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS:

Noted that the subject of electricity supply in the Torres Strait was to be brought to the attention of this Committee on the recommendation of the previous Committee. Mr Bredhauer to prepare a submission for discussion at the earliest opportunity.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

Agreed that future meetings be held when possible during sittings or adjoining sittings of the House. The prospect of breakfast meetings was also canvassed.

The meeting closed at 9.45 a.m.

Confirmed this 29th

day of March 1990.



CHAIRMAN