

- M I N U T E S -

A meeting of the Parliamentary Committee of Public Accounts was held in the Committee Room, Level 6 of the Parliamentary Annexe, on Wednesday, 26 July 1989 at 9.35 a.m.

Members Present:

Mr G. Alison - Chairman, Messrs Booth, Campbell, Fraser, Hayward, Stephan and White.

In attendance - Secretary, Mr D.W. Bletchly and Research Officer, Dr K. Lambkin.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Minutes of the Meeting of 7 July 1989 were Circulated and Confirmed (Moved Mr Campbell, seconded Mr White).

Business Arising:

. **Letter re Standing Order 136** Chairman has spoken to the Clerk of the Parliament. A draft letter has been prepared for the Chairman's consideration.

. **Legal Opinion re Fitzgerald Comments** Chairman has seen Ian Callinan, Q.C. who regards the comments as an inexact Statement. Mr Callinan will prepare a statement for inclusion in the Committee's Annual Report. The letter will be circulated to Members prior to forwarding.

Drought Relief:

. **Sheep Belt Tour** The Chairman explained the situation regarding Mr Booth's withdrawal and the Chairman's subsequent attendance at Meetings on Thursday, 20 July.

. **Minister's desire to attend Hearing** The Chairman outlined discussions held with the Premier and Minister. He advised that he considered it inappropriate as it had the potential to infringe upon the independence of the Committee. Consultations with other States had shown that it was against convention for a Minister to appear. Moved Mr Fraser, seconded Mr Hayward, that a draft letter be prepared and circulated to all Members for approval advising the Honourable Neville Harper that it would be inappropriate for the Committee to accede to his desire to appear. However the Committee had reserved its right to call Witnesses and that the door is open to make written submissions.

. **Minister's Radio Statement** Recording played. Agreed no further action.

- 2 -

- . **Country Life Report** Agreed no further action.
- . **Witnesses for next Hearing** Agreed to call
 - K.M. Drysdale - UGA
 - A. Martin - Warrego Graziers Association
 - R. Landsberg - Land Care Committee, Charters Towers
 - D. Corr - Cattlemen's Union
 - J. Miller - DPI
 - I. Wells - DPI

Draft Drought Report:

After general discussion, agreed that the following be considered.

Objectives


- . Objectives of the scheme are unclear
- . Woolcock's evidence to be reviewed for objectives
- . Objectives to be presumed as per draft prepared by Chairman
- . Committee to state what objectives should be.

Subsidy Scheme

- . Some form of scheme to be maintained
- . Upper limit on payments to be considered
- . IDP's to be replaced by small area declarations
- . Agistment categories to be as per DPI recommendation No. 14
- . Forced sale - out
- . Drought Committees to be abolished.

The meeting concluded at 12.25 p.m.

Confirmed this 7th day of August 1989.


Chairman