

THE LEGISLATURE

OVERVIEW

Agency	2007-08 Budget \$m	2008-09 Budget \$m	Variation %
The Legislature			
Total Expenses	116.2	122.3	5.3
Capital Expenditure	4.0	6.4	59.8

THE LEGISLATURE

The Parliament of New South Wales, under the *Constitution Act 1902*, has a number of roles to play in providing a system of representative and responsible government for the people of New South Wales. The Parliament fulfils its representative and legislative role by:

- ◆ making laws for the peace, welfare and good government of New South Wales, with the consent of the Governor
- ◆ providing a forum for supervision and scrutiny of the Executive Government and accountability to the people of New South Wales and
- ◆ providing a forum for debate, discussion and review of issues of public policy and issues of concern to the people of New South Wales.

The support services for the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly provide procedural and administrative assistance to Members in the performance of their Parliamentary and constituency duties. In the case of the Legislative Assembly, this assistance is also provided to Members in their electorate offices.

The Parliamentary Joint Services provides support and ancillary services to Members and for the operation of the two Houses and the Parliament House building. These services are finance and payroll, archives, catering, education, Hansard, information technology, library and research, security, printing and building maintenance.

RESULTS AND SERVICES

Under the doctrine of the separation of powers, the Parliament of New South Wales, as the Legislature, is a sovereign body that is necessarily distinct from the Executive Government.

The Parliament fulfils its role as a representative and legislative body by working towards the following results:

- ◆ Two Houses of Parliament and their committee systems operate effectively to debate and pass legislation and complete committee inquiries with recommendations to Government.
- ◆ Members of Parliament are properly supported so that they can undertake their role at Parliament House and elsewhere.
- ◆ Better access is provided to the community in order to increase awareness of the role and functions of the Parliament and access to Members, and the public can enjoy Parliament House as a building of historical significance.

The key services provided by the Legislature to contribute to these results are:

- ◆ Chamber and committee support services such as procedural advice, research, public consultation and Parliamentary reporting services
- ◆ Members' support services such as human resources, salary and entitlement administration, facilities management and information services and
- ◆ community access programs such as school visits, tours, exhibitions and displays, public events and functions, web streaming and Members' newsletters.

The key services provided by the Legislature and the way in which they are expected to contribute to these results are set out in the following table:

Service Groups	2008-09 Budget Expenses \$m	Results		
		Chambers and committees operate effectively	Members supported to fulfil their role	Better community access programs in place
Chamber and Committee Support	16.4	✓	✓	✓
Members' Support	99.5	✓	✓	✓
Community Access	6.4			✓
Total Expenses Excluding Losses	122.3			

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

In the last five years, the Legislature has undergone considerable change, particularly in the provision of information technology services to Members.

The Parliament has been funded to employ professional, specialist staff who are able to ensure that both Chambers and their committees are able to function efficiently. Members receive expert procedural advice in relation to committee operations and the proceedings in the Houses and in committees. These proceedings are recorded and transcribed by the Parliamentary Reporting Service.

In addition, community access programs are well supported with tours, school visits, teacher training and a curriculum support service. Members are involved in many of these activities. Outreach programs include web streaming of proceedings of the Houses and Members' newsletters to the community.

Trends in the Parliament's operations over the previous five years involve:

- ◆ implementation of efficiencies in Parliamentary support services
- ◆ increased flexibility to Members in the use of their entitlements
- ◆ enhancements to security both physical and IT related and
- ◆ provision of information to constituents by Members through regular newsletters and the internet.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Strategic directions include increased security, maintaining the Parliament House building and its heritage features and enabling information and communication technologies.

Increased security

In the face of a heightened security environment, the Parliament's security infrastructure is being strengthened to support the continuity of services to both Members and the community. The Government has provided additional funding for a targeted capital program and increased security personnel.

Building maintenance (including catering facilities) and meeting heritage and disability access requirements

The Parliament has made a significant investment in building maintenance, heritage and disability access projects. This is to improve the safety of the public attending functions and meetings at Parliament House and the health and safety of Members and staff.

Enabling information and communication technologies

Members and the public alike expect to be able to benefit from the most up to date information and communication technologies available. The State's democratic credentials are improved through better interaction between Members and constituents and enhanced public participation in Parliamentary proceedings.

2008-09 BUDGET INITIATIVES

Total Expenses

Total expenses for 2008-09 are estimated at \$122.3 million, an increase of 5.2 per cent over budgeted 2007-08 expenses. This increase reflects:

- ◆ provision for staff salary increases of 2.5 per cent in line with the Government's wages policy
- ◆ provision for other operating costs escalation of 2.5 per cent
- ◆ transfer of \$550,000 in asset maintenance funding from the Department of Commerce to maintain Parliament House

- ◆ additional funding of \$1.1 million to recruit Special Constables to enhance the Parliament House security and
- ◆ pay increases granted to Members of Parliament by the Parliamentary Remuneration Tribunal subsequent to the 2007-08 budget allocation.

Capital Expenditure

Total capital expenditure in 2008-09 is estimated at \$6.4 million. This funding will be used for:

- ◆ completion of the energy and water saving initiatives projects (\$1.9 million)
- ◆ the upgrade of Parliament's information technology systems (\$775,000)
- ◆ upgrading of security infrastructure within Parliament House (\$2.1 million)
- ◆ the transfer of funding from the Department of Commerce for the Parliament House building (\$642,000) and
- ◆ fit out of Legislative Assembly Members' electorate offices and other minor works (\$1 million).

AGENCY RESULT INDICATORS

Chambers and Committees operate effectively

Result Indicator	Units	2005-06 Actual	2006-07 Actual	2007-08 Budget	2008-09 Forecast
i) Bills passed both Houses and received assent	no.	111	71	115	119
ii) Sitting hours per year	no.	803	540	887	858
iii) Committee reports	no.	80	80	75	80
iv) Committee meetings	no.	281	180	320	280

Notes:

- i) This indicator shows the effectiveness of the Parliament to consider Government Bills.
- ii) This indicator is a proxy for the availability of the Parliament to consider legislation.
- iii) This indicator shows the committee inquiries completed and recommendations to Government.
- iv) This indicator is a proxy for the committee inquiry process.

Members supported to fulfil their roles

Result Indicator	Units	2005-06 Actual	2006-07 Actual	2007-08 Budget	2008-09 Forecast
i) Cost of support service/ total expenditure	%	30.4	32.0	32.1	31.4
Note:					
i) This indicator is a benchmark for cost effectiveness of support services provided to Members of Parliament.					

Better community access programs in place

Result Indicator	Units	2005-06 Actual	2006-07 Actual	2007-08 Budget	2008-09 Forecast
i) Participants in education programs	no.	8,800	7,540	9,240	9,702
ii) Committee inquiry participants	no.	1,295	1,058	1,400	1,700
Notes:					
i) This is a measure of the effectiveness of the education tour processes and program.					
ii) This is a measure of the effectiveness of the community access and participation in the Parliamentary process.					