

THE LEGISLATURE

OVERVIEW

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Budget 2005-06 \$m</i>	<i>Budget 2006-07 \$m</i>	<i>Variation %</i>
The Legislature			
Total Expenses	106.7	108.7	1.9
Capital Expenditure	2.1	3.3	57.0

THE LEGISLATURE

The Legislature comprising the Legislative Council, Legislative Assembly and Joint House Departments provides procedural, administrative and support services to assist Members in their parliamentary and constituency duties. These services are provided both at Parliament House and in 94 Legislative Assembly electorate offices (Murray Darling has two offices) throughout the State.

RESULTS AND SERVICES

In accordance with the *Constitution Act 1902*, the Legislature supports the system of a strong representative and democratic government in New South Wales by working towards the following results:

- ◆ The making of constitutionally sound laws, scrutiny of the executive government and debate of matters of concern to the community by each House of Parliament.
- ◆ Development of public policy, and monitoring and review of independent agencies and the executive government by parliamentary committees.
- ◆ Facilitation of the representation of constituents by Members of Parliament.

Key services provided by the agency to contribute to these results include:

- ◆ the provision of efficient business support systems, including the preparation of business papers and official records, Hansard reporting, information technology and the efficient administration of members' entitlements;
- ◆ the provision of authoritative advice on parliamentary law and practice, research, analysis and report writing; and
- ◆ the provision of a safe and functional working environment for members and staff ensuring that Parliament House remains an accessible and secure part of the State's heritage.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Expenditure trends for the Legislature over the past five years have reflected increased expenditure on:

- ◆ the provision of an IT Network and Internet access to the 94 electorate offices throughout the State together with members and staff located at Parliament House;
- ◆ enhancements to both physical and information technology security in response to world-wide events and external risk assessments; and
- ◆ changes to Members' entitlements to assist them in communicating with their constituents.

Employee related expenses, including salaries of Members of Parliament account for 75 per cent of total expenses.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The Legislature's primary strategic focus is on the provision of services to Members of Parliament to support them in undertaking their parliamentary and electorate duties.

Strategies planned for the budget year to achieve this and other goals include:

- ◆ updating and upgrading the Parliament's ageing IT infrastructure;
- ◆ reviewing the delivery of Food and Beverage Services in the light of the Government's decision to abolish the Parliamentary Catering Subsidy;

- ◆ provision of corporate and procedural support services to Members of Parliament and their staff;
- ◆ review services and their costs to achieve productivity savings; and
- ◆ undertaking additional maintenance work on the Parliament House Building to meet heritage and occupational health and safety requirements together with essential building repairs as identified in the Legislature's Total Asset Management Plan.

2006-07 BUDGET

Total Expenses

Estimated total expenses in 2006-07 are \$108.7 million, an increase of 1.9 per cent over budgeted 2005-06 expenses.

Capital Expenditure

Total capital expenditure in 2006-07 is estimated at \$3.3 million. This funding will be used to:

- ◆ maintain the Parliament's Information Technology Systems (\$2 million);
- ◆ fit out Legislative Assembly Members' electorate offices (\$0.9 million); and
- ◆ annual provisions and minor works (\$0.4 million).