

4.3.1 THE LEGISLATURE

OVERVIEW

Agency	Forecast 1995-96	Estimate 1996-97	Variation
	\$m	\$m	%
The Legislature			
Current Payments	57.7	60.0	4.0
Capital Payments	2.2	3.2	45.5
Total, The Legislature	59.9	63.2	5.6

1996-97 Budget

Current Payments

Funding is provided to the Legislature to service the needs of Members of Parliament in performing their legislative and constituency duties.

Total current payments of \$60.0 million will be met by the Legislature in 1996-97. Specific areas to be addressed by the Legislature this year include -

- the implementation of recommendations arising from the recent security review for both Members' private residences and while working at Parliament House;
- review of non-Member related programs to achieve administrative and service efficiencies following budget reductions; and
- the implementation of a Members' computerised entitlement system in both Houses of Parliament to improve service delivery and control of payments made to Members.

Capital Payments

An allocation of \$3.2 million has been provided to the Legislature for computer projects, items of minor plant and equipment and electorate office fitouts during 1996-97.

Specifically, funding has been allocated to complete stage four of the Parliament's Information Technology Strategic Plan. This includes implementation of the Members' Entitlement System and the new Financial Management Information System which commenced in 1995-96.

An amount of \$316,000 has been provided to fit-out Legislative Assembly electorate offices as part of an ongoing program when Members find it necessary to relocate their office at the expiration of an existing lease.

The Parliament has received approval to replace a damaged electrically driven chiller in the Central Plant Room with a gas driven unit. Under a special funding arrangement, savings in energy costs gained from the operation of the new chiller will be used to repay, over a three year period, the capital funding of \$405,000 provided from the Consolidated Fund. Subsequent savings will then be retained by the Parliament for its own use. The total cost of the chiller unit is \$792,000 with the balance of funding obtained from a capital grant from Sydney Hospital combined with the proceeds of the insurance claim lodged for the damaged chiller being replaced.